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eye

Wednesday
OCTOBER 15, 2008

redeyechicago.com

A Chicago Tribune
publication

★ **FREE** ★

REDEYE PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

killer fashion

*What the heel? Sometimes what you
wear is so stylish it hurts **pages 6-7***



The CTA opens lines
of communication **8**

Jock the vote: Chicago's
Great Sports Debate **14**

Finally! West Town
hot spot opens **21**



2do

» **Chicago Marathon runners get free upgrades at Mario Tricoci Hair Salon & Day Spa**

To consult

Celebrate the grand opening of Ulta (114 S. State St.) at 4 p.m. Wednesday with free cosmetic consultations and gift certificates for the first 100 customers.

To relax

Chicago Marathon runners can get free upgrades on select spa treatments through Oct. 26 at Mario Tricoci Hair Salon & Day Spa (900 N. Michigan Ave.).

To clean

Make your own all-natural, chemical-free house cleaners and body and pet products with a kit from **eco-me.com**.

To save

Get tips on half-price sports, theater, comedy and music tickets at **goldstar.com**.

Send tips to **redeye2do@hotmail.com**

txtables



RANDOM DILEMMA

We asked. You responded. Here are the results from Tuesday's Random Dilemma, in which we asked if you would rather know everyone's name or have everyone know your name. Cheers!

- » **Know everyone's name:** 60 percent
- » **Have everyone know your name:** 40 percent

aye, aye caption

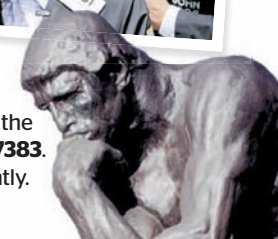
Text us a funny caption for the photo to the left and we'll print the best in Thursday's RedEye. To give it a shot, text the word "**caption**" followed by your brief caption and your name to **47383**. Good luck!

Tuesday's winner: "Despite the gloomy news, Jose still finds time to check for bad breath." —Mike Bruno



Here's another: Which would you rather do? Text "**pick**" and the number of your response to **47383**. You'll get the poll results instantly.

1. Lose your car keys
2. Get locked out of the house



61 46

TODAY'S FORECAST

Cloudy with rain likely.



THU.

60 42

Partly cloudy



FRI.

58 40

Mostly cloudy



SAT.

59 44

Sunny



SUN.

60 47

Clouds are back

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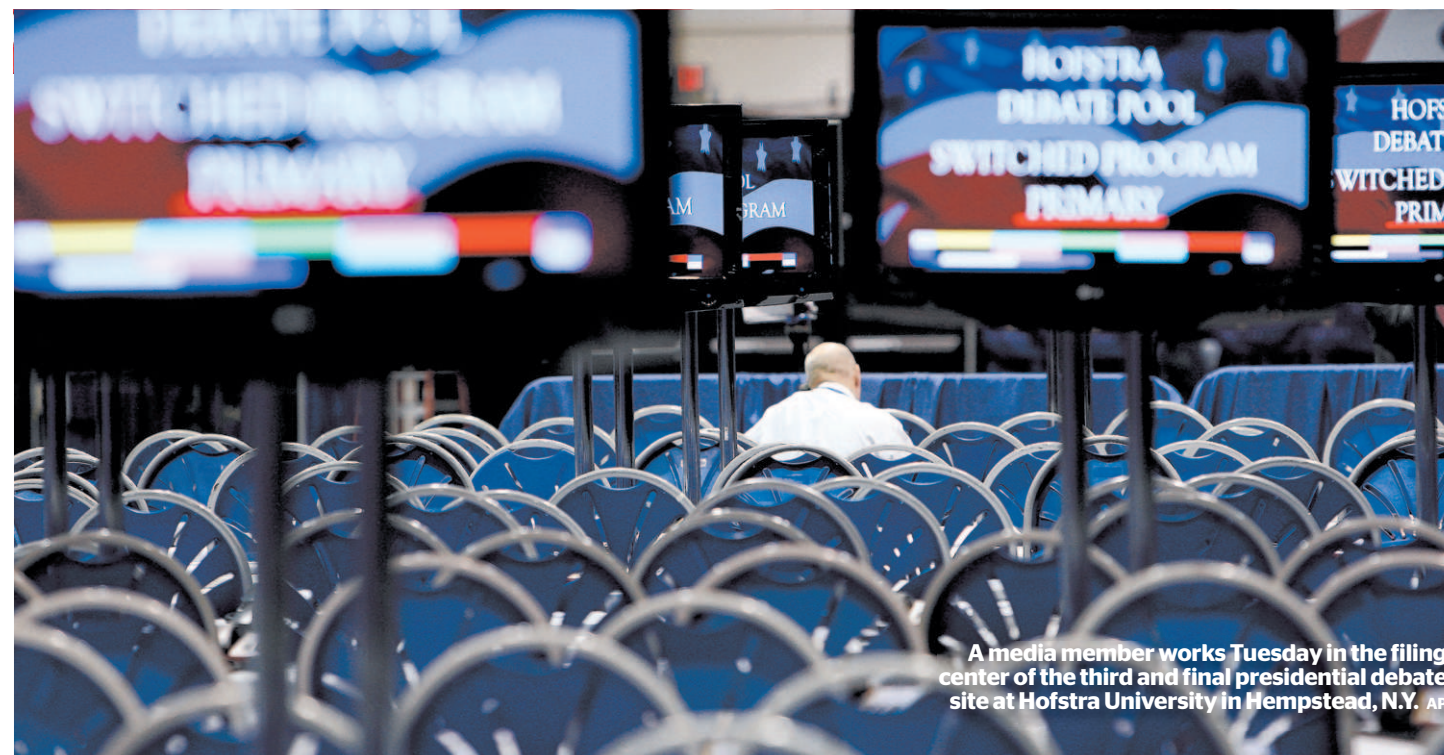
- Lipodissolve With Cold Laser Therapy
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- Pearl™ Skin Resurfacing
- Nd: Yag Laser Hair Removal
- Prowave 770™ Hair Removal
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- Photorejuvenation/Photofacial
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Our Goal At Ellehomme Holistic Med Spas Is To Surpass Our Clients Expectations And Achieve The Highest Level Of Customer Satisfaction



A media member works Tuesday in the filing center of the third and final presidential debate site at Hofstra University in Hempstead, N.Y. AP

LAST BATTLE

IT'S TIME FOR OBAMA AND MCCAIN TO GET SPECIFIC

Associated Press

NEW YORK The debate season that has chewed up its moderators comes to a close Wednesday when John McCain and Barack Obama meet for the third time, with CBS News' Bob Schieffer directing the discussion.

The veteran "Face the Nation" host won't telegraph what he will ask. But he said he will be seeking more details about their potential presidencies than have been evident so far.

"By now we've all heard their talking points," he said. "We've heard the general outlines of what they are talking about. The time has come to be a little more specific."

They will sit at the same table for the third debate, so close that they will be able to reach out and touch each other. Schieffer hopes this will encourage more interaction.

He's not reluctant to press the men to stay on point.

"It will not embarrass me, if they go off in a different direction, to say 'excuse me, could you focus on the question that I just asked?'" he said.

Good luck.

"He'll try," said Vincent Hutchings, a political science professor at the University of Michigan. "But they're pretty good at avoiding that."

It's always a tough call for a journalist in this situation. Do you ask the question, and trust that it's evident to viewers when the candidate is completely ignoring it? Or do you press persistently, taking the risk that your conduct becomes the issue as much as the question itself—as CNN's Campbell Brown

found when her questioning of a McCain aide angered the campaign.

Bruce Cain, director of the Washington program for the University of California at Berkeley, said he hoped Schieffer could compel the candidates to speak more specifically about the steps they would take to solve the economic crisis, both short- and long-term.

"We didn't, as many people have noted, hear anything in the (second) debate that we didn't hear three months ago, other than they support the bailout plan," Cain said.

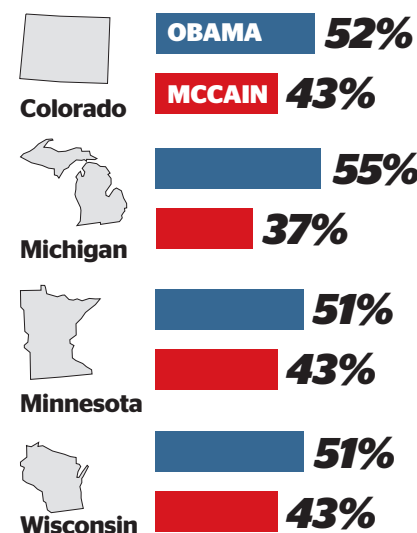
Schieffer believes the election still is very close and many people will finally make up their minds based on what they see on Wednesday.

"I don't want to think about it too much," he said, "but I think it could very well determine who our next president will be."

Battlegrounds

Three weeks before the Nov. 4 election, Democratic presidential nominee Barack Obama is winning big in key battleground states, according to polls released Tuesday.

The Quinnipiac Polling Institute surveys found Obama passing the key 50 percent mark in Colorado, Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin. And for the first time, Obama leads Republican nominee John McCain among white voters in all four states. **MCT**



A tough job

Jim Lehrer, Gwen Ifill and Tom Brokaw had great plans going into their debates too. Each had their own frustrations.

Lehrer tried hard to get McCain and Obama to speak directly to the other when it was evident they didn't want to.

During the vice presidential debate, Sarah Palin took pride in not answering Ifill's questions. "She blew me off," a bemused Ifill said later.

Brokaw was spoofed by "Saturday Night Live" for overseeing a dry debate: "From this list of penetrating, insightful and provocative questions, I have chosen the eight least interesting," said Brokaw impersonator Chris Parnell. **AP**

As Obama widens lead, McCain tries to gain ground

Associated Press

WASHINGTON Barack Obama and John McCain will both pursue the image of a strong leader in troublesome economic times as they meet Wednesday night for their third and final presidential debate.

Their face-off comes as Obama widens his lead in typically Democratic states and campaigns with an air of optimism about his

prospects, while McCain seeks a way to gain ground and finds himself defending traditionally Republican states with less than three weeks left in the race.

The economic crisis has transformed the campaign over the past month. Obama has built leads nationally and in key states as the turmoil has returned the nation's focus to President Bush's unpopular policies. Now, the

burden is on McCain to reverse his slide.

Wednesday's debate is slated to focus entirely on the economy and domestic policy.

Advisers for each candidate say he will use the final debate to lay out his vision for the country and promote his economic policies while drawing differences with his opponent.

Obama has increasingly portrayed himself as a consistent and steady leader during the eco-

omic crisis, while labeling McCain "erratic" and "lurching." The words suggest unsteadiness on the part of the 72-year-old senator.

McCain has accused Obama of lying about his association with 1960s radical William Ayers, a founder of the violent anti-war group Weather Underground. McCain has softened that attack on the campaign trail in recent days, though not in his TV and radio ads.

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hey, cta

Have something to say about public transit in Chicago? Send your ideas and opinions to goingpublic@tribune.com.

FROM THE BLOG

The fare hikes are a result of legislature and the governor. This is not CTA's fault; it's our legislators' fault. Everything is going up in cost, so it's no surprise that CTA is increasing fares. In fact, we knew this would happen when the last state budget was passed with the CTA goody for senior citizens "ride free." I absolutely hate the Governor of Illinois and can't wait to get into the ballot box and vote against him.

—Posted by "Sally in Chicago" on Oct. 10 at redeyechicago.com/ctablog

Oh, 'L' no!

Riders sound off on CTA

Have you ever encountered a CTA service issue that made you wonder, "What the 'L' is going on?"

Of course you have. That's why columnist Kyra Kyles got to the bottom of rider issues such as out-of-order escalators and shabby stations in Tuesday's "Going Public."

Riders responded with questions of their own, plus feedback on other train and bus business.

Escalator update, CTA?

The escalator at the Red Line Cermak/Chinatown stop has been boarded up since that semi-truck crashed into it in April of this year. Is there any time frame as to when it will be up and running? Climbing those three flights of stairs in the winter is going to be such a pain.

—DIANA DUMAS, 37, ROSELAND

Plastic surgery for public transit

I saw the ugly subway stations in Paris and London. But Red Line's Grand Avenue in the heart of Chicago is the ugliest one. Mayor Daley saw what the enthusiastic people, who really love our city, can do. I'm talking about a piece of art, the Bryn Mawr underpass of Lake Shore Drive. The people who created that should be trusted with our hopes and our money to work on the Grand Avenue project. We will be proud of their accomplishment for years to come.

—VLADIMIR LIGHT, 54, EDGEWATER

Diary of a dirty ride

I moved here this summer—and have spent much of my days navigating our public transportation. Although it's supposedly getting faster, there is a lot of work to be done in other areas. Here is what I found just during my commute into work this morning [Oct. 8]: Addison Blue Line station [at] 1:05 a.m.: Mouse spotted cleverly weaving traps laid out to kill him. Addison to Irving Park Blue Line car [at] 10:20 a.m., smelled of feces so badly that I actually starting looking for remnants.

—KATHRYN JANICEK, 32, CHICAGO

'L' no

I have many pet peeves when it comes to the CTA. However, there is one that has been tap-dancing on my nerves lately. Why do people insist on using "L" to refer to our rail system? Now, I don't profess to know the whole history of the Chicago Transit Authority, but I always thought the shortened version should be written as "El" as it's an abbreviation of "elevated train." Wouldn't the continuous use of "L" imply that it stands for something that begins with, well, the letter L?

—JILLIAN LONDON, 22, WICKER PARK



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FASHION DANGERS

By **Alexia Elejalde-Ruiz**

REDEYE

We suffer mightily for fashion.

We fry our hair and pierce our skin and squeeze our feet into small torture chambers. We lug around enormous bags stuffed to the brim, because we never know when we just might need an extra pair of shoes, a

hair dryer and a copy of “War and Peace.” At the Prada runway show last month at Milan Fashion Week, two models tumbled to the ground, no match for their 6-inch snakeskin platform sandals. If professional walkers can’t handle the skyscraper heels en vogue this season, is there any hope for the rest of us? High

heels may be the mother of painful fashion statements, but other trends take a bigger toll than we might realize.

From jewelry to body shapers, from ballet flats to tighty whities, here’s a rundown of the price our bodies pay for certain style choices.

HEAD CASES

1 Urban legend has it that wearing hats will hasten hair loss. Not true, doctors say. “Wearing a hat has nothing to do with it,” said Dr. Raymond Konior, a hair transplant surgeon in Oakbrook Terrace. The vast majority of men who lose their hair can blame their genes. Women, meanwhile, can blame nutrition, anemia, medications, hormone imbalances or certain ‘dos. Hairstyles that constantly pull on the hair follicles—such as tight braids or extensions—can cause hair loss due to a condition called traction alopecia, which is inflammation of follicles, Konior said. Some hair relaxers also can cause hair loss because the chemicals reorganize the hair’s protein, making it weaker, he said.

EYE MAKEUP

3 Even if you manage to avoid stabbing your eyeball with your eyeliner pencil or mascara wand, eye makeup can damage your eyes. The preservatives in cosmetics can cause irritation or inflammation to the front surface of the eye, especially if you apply makeup to the inner rim of your eyelid, Rao said. Particularly worrisome are bacteria that accumulate on pencils and brushes, which can cause infection, Rao said. If it’s significant enough, a bacterial infection around the eye can be a sight-threatening problem, he said. It’s smart to replace your eye makeup every six months to avoid bacterial contamination, Rao said. If you have an eye infection, buy new makeup.

BRAS

5 Underwire bras can dig into your skin and cause discomfort and redness. But cancer? Two anthropologists caused a stir in 1995 when they published a book suggesting women who wear a bra 24 hours a day are 125 times more likely to get breast cancer than women who never wear a bra. They reasoned that bras compress the lymphatic system of the breast, resulting in an accumulation of toxins that lead to cancer. The American Cancer Society dismisses the theory, saying the study wasn’t scientifically valid and didn’t take into account other risk factors.



HEAVY EARRINGS

2 Wearing heavy, dangling earrings can cause your earring holes to elongate over time, sometimes to the point that the earring tears all the way through the earlobe, said dermatologist Brooke Jackson, medical director of the Skin Wellness Center in the Loop. Earlobes won’t repair themselves, so you’ll need minor surgery to fix them, Jackson said. The good news is that the surgery takes just 15-20 minutes under local anesthesia and causes minimal pain, Jackson said. You can get your ears repierced after six weeks.

COLOR CONTACT LENSES

4 You can buy non-prescription, colored contact lenses at convenience stores and gas stations, but doctors don’t recommend it. When contact lenses aren’t fitted to your eye, they can scratch the cornea or put you at a higher risk of infection, said Dr. Sanjay Rao, medical director of the Lakeside Eye Clinic in the Loop. Contacts that don’t fit properly also can decrease the amount of oxygen that gets to the surface of the eye, causing the cornea to swell and your vision to change, he said. If the problems go on long enough, the damage can be permanent. Colored contacts are fine as long as a doctor fits them to your eye, Rao said.

HEAVY BAGS

6 The biggest problem with heavy bags is that people tend to always carry them on the same shoulder, causing the back to curve to compensate for the weight, said Sean Curry, a chiropractic physician with East Bank Chiropractic Health Center. In addition to neck and shoulder pain, that lopsided weight can strain back muscles or cause curvature in the spine, particularly if you’ve been lugging that bag for more than a year, Curry said. To alleviate the strain, switch the bag from one shoulder to the other, Curry said. Backpacks and messenger bags centered in the small of the back are also good, he said.

PANTYHOSE AND BODY SHAPERS

7 Constricting garments can prohibit muscles from contracting fully because the tight material is already doing some of the contracting work, Curry, the chiropractor, said. Consequently, the valves of the veins can get weaker, keeping them from pushing the blood through the veins fully. That can lead to varicose veins or, in extreme cases, blood clots, Curry said. (Ironically, support hose also are used in varicose-vein treatment.) Some gynecologists worry pantyhose and tight jeans can contribute to yeast infections in both men and women because they create a warm environment and inhibit air circulation. But Dr. Elizabeth Mueller, assistant professor in uro-gynecology at Loyola University Medical Center, doesn't see a correlation. Women who suspect their pantyhose are responsible for urinary tract pain are more likely feeling discomfort from the awkwardness of walking around in heels, Mueller said.

HIGH HEELS

9 Wearing high heels puts a lot of pressure on the nerves in the balls of your feet, causing the pain and tingling you feel after standing too long at a cocktail party, said podiatrist Megan Leahy, who works at Illinois Bone and Joint Institute on the Northwest Side. Too much pressure on the long bones of the foot (metatarsals) can swell the joints and, if ignored, lead to stress fractures, Leahy said. Long-term use of high heels can shorten the Achilles' tendon, which can cause tendonitis, she said. Some women find they can no longer wear flat shoes with a shortened tendon because their feet are conditioned to walk on the balls of their feet.

High heels can worsen bunions and hammertoes—a condition where your toes curl in like claws—and cause corns or calluses, Leahy said. It also can contribute to a deformity dubbed “pump bump,” which is a bony enlargement on the back of the heel. Pointy-toe and pecky-toe shoes, meanwhile, can exacerbate in-grown nails because they squeeze toes together, Leahy said. It's not just the feet that suffer.

High heels can aggravate pain in the front of the knees, as “it's like you're constantly walking downhill,” said Adam Bennett, a sports medicine physician at Northwestern Orthopaedic Institute and one of the Bears' team physicians. It's healthiest to keep your heels under 2 inches, Leahy said. Women who are loathe to give up their 5-inch stilettos should limit their walking to car to bar. “I never discourage fashionable shoes, but you have to wear them at the appropriate times,” said podiatrist Thomas Carr.

Not so long ago, high heels were defined as 3 or 4 inches—a footnote to give a little height and a more appealing silhouette to the wearer. But this fall, shoes have been supersized with the proliferation of 5-, 6- and even 7-inch heels and platforms. The uber-heels range from \$100 versions sold by Steve Madden to deluxe pairs costing between \$600 and \$1,500 from design-

ers such as Yves Saint Laurent, Marni, Manolo Blahnik and Christian Louboutin.

“These are the highest heels that I've ever seen sold on a commercial level,” said Roseanne Morrison, fashion director for Doneger Group, a retail consultant for more than 200 stores.

Blahnik, who for more than 20 years topped out at 5-inch heels, pushed the envelope this

year, adding a 6-inch style to his line.

“These are still sexy, pretty shoes,” he says. The designer said 6-inch heels already account for about 30 percent of his company's business.

And women can't seem to get enough of them. Claudia Chen, a 33-year-old owner of an event-marketing business, partly blames her super high heels for back problems and a herniated

TIGHTY WHITIES

8 Boxers of briefs? If sperm had their say, they'd likely choose boxers. Tightly whites can impede sperm production because they raise the temperature of the testicles, said Dr. Amos Madanes, medical director of the Midwest Fertility Center. Any heat can hamper sperm count, making tight pants and hot tubs also bad for a man's fertility. The effects are reversible. Sperm take about 90 days to fully form, so if you stop wearing tight underwear today your sperm count should be back to normal 90 days from now, Madanes said.

BALLERINA FLATS AND UGGs

10 They may feel comfortable, but without proper insoles, these flat shoes can cause knee, hip and back pain, Leahy said. The lack of arch support also can cause your arch to collapse, Carr said. You can tell if you have arch or heel problems if your first couple of steps after you get out of bed in the morning are tight and stiff, Carr said. It might feel better as you walk around, but any time you sit down and get up again, it hurts again. If you want to wear these types of shoes, it's best to be fitted for a custom insole.

TIGHT SHOES

11 Most men and women wear their shoes too small, Leahy said, causing calluses and blisters around the toes and heel, which can get infected. For men, wing-tip dress shoes are a common culprit because they tend to be stiffer and more narrow at the toe, she said.

Shoes designed with inseams over the bony areas of the foot can cause irritation, blisters and bruising on the bone, Carr said. To ensure you buy properly fitting shoes, try them on at the end of the day, when your feet are the most swollen, Leahy said. While standing up, check to make sure there's a thumb-width of space between your longest toe and the front of the shoe to protect the toenails and prevent hammertoe. Walk around the store on a hard surface, and don't get shoes that need a break-in period, Leahy said. Also, buy shoes to fit the larger of your feet (one foot is usually bigger than the other).

disc. And yet she wears 4- or 5-inch high heels to meetings and for most social occasions.

“I look taller, my legs look longer, and I feel more slender,” says the 5-foot-2-inch New Yorker. “About half of the clothes I wear only look good in high heels. There is a price to pay for beauty, and high heels is one of them.”

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

Latest designer high heels are going to the extreme



DRESS SOCKS

12 Most men's and women's dress socks are made of synthetic fibers that don't let the foot breathe as well as cotton does. That can cause your foot to sweat more than normal, leading to more rubbing against the shoe and more irritation, Leahy said. It also makes your foot more susceptible to athlete's foot, she said.

chicago

Daley to halt city services over three holidays

Chicago Tribune

The steady flow of bad budget news out of City Hall continued Tuesday, as Mayor Daley announced he will shut down city services except for police and fire for three days during the holidays.

City workers will be told to take unpaid days off the day after Thanksgiving, on Christmas Eve and on New Year's Eve this year and next year for a total of six "partial shutdown" days. If there is a big snowstorm or other emergency, Daley said, City Hall would call some workers back to the job.

"This is a good thing for the city, the taxpayers," said Daley, who hopes to save \$20 million from the plan.

The mayor also said he would refrain from filling 1,350 vacancies on the 38,000-strong city payroll, for another \$49 million in savings.

The decisions were unveiled as Daley prepared to present his 2009 budget proposal Wednesday. The city faces a \$469 million shortfall over two years.

On Friday, the administration announced proposals to raise the price of parking downtown, taking a city ambulance and going to a sporting event or concert through tax and fee increases.

Labor unions representing the vast majority of the city's workforce recently rejected a proposal from the Daley administration that their members take five unpaid days off work each year for the next four years.

Union officials said Tuesday they do not think there is anything they can do to avert the shutdown.

UNION PERSPECTIVE

Holiday weeks may be a good time to close city offices that wouldn't be busy anyway, but it's a bad time to send home garbage collection crews because the amount of refuse goes up at Thanksgiving and Christmas, said Lou Phillips, business agent for Laborers Local 1001. After weeks of lobbying aldermen to save more than 300 laborers from the layoffs, Phillips said he was resigned to seeing the City Council approve Daley's budget proposal.



Commuters on Thursday board the Blue Line train at Western Avenue.

CANDICE C. CUSIC/TRIBUNE

CTA wants to talk to you

Agency says it's beefing up communications

Chicago Tribune

The CTA may still have miles to go on the road to providing reliable, world-class service, but at least customers will now know what they are getting into before leaving home or work.

The CTA introduced reforms, including e-mail alerts, to keep passengers better informed about routine service changes and, eventually, disruptions caused by equipment breakdowns and emergencies.

Riders can sign up at transitchicago.com to receive planned service-change notifications because of construction, special events and other situations. They also can view a new video on train emergency-evacuation procedures on the Web site.

The video and a new brochure explaining what rail passengers should do in an emergency are an attempt to end a string of recent incidents in which panicked passengers fled stranded subway trains on their own because no CTA personnel provided instructions.

Starting early next year, CTA customers can subscribe to emergency alerts sent as text messages to mobile phones or as e-mails to BlackBerry-like devices, officials said.

The new efforts mark an acknowledgment that the CTA is in the communica-

tions business as well as being a transportation provider.

CTA President Ron Huberman conceded that providing accurate and frequent communications, especially when needed the most, has been a chronic failure.

"Over the last year, it has been very clear we have to change the way we communicate," he said.

Pace, the suburban bus agency, has had an e-mail subscription service for about two years, said spokesman Patrick Wilmot. Riders can sign up at pacebus.com. Metra does not offer e-mail alerts. The commuter railroad is upgrading its Web site, metrarail.com.

In an emergency, the CTA will dispatch a "tactical field team" focused on keeping customers informed, he said. An emergency information hot line also will be established.

The new measures will include technology to offer real-time, detailed announcements aboard trains and buses from the CTA's control center, instead of the current pre-recorded messages that tend to be of little use in making alternative travel plans and often are repeated over and over to the annoyance of riders.

On new rail cars scheduled to begin

WHO'S PICKING UP THE CHECK?

The CTA, which is under tight budget constraints and planning fare hikes in January, used no consultants to modernize the agency's communications program, CTA President Ron Huberman said. All work was done in-house using the existing budgets and no additional costs will be incurred, he said.

entering service in 2010, a video system will allow train operators and control-center personnel to view what's taking place in individual cars. In addition, real-time maps will show the train's location and upcoming stops to help travelers.

Part of the communications-improvement plan involves making the CTA Web site easier to use, Huberman said. By early 2009, the new home page will display the status of each rail line as well as bus routes affected by major delays because of planned or emergency service rerouting. During an emergency, the appearance of the page will change dramatically to highlight key information that riders need, Huberman said.

During the next year, new electronic message boards and fixed signs will be placed at CTA rail stations. The message boards will announce how many minutes until the next train arrives and provide instructions and travel information during service disruptions and emergencies, officials said.



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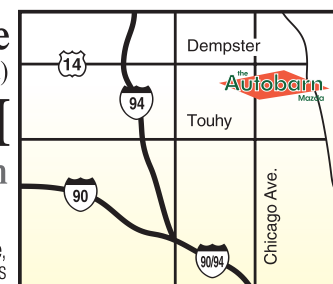
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Costumed man tried to lure kids

A man dressed as a clown tried to lure children into his vehicle on the South Side and Far South Side last week, police said Tuesday. The announcement comes a week after detectives released an alert on similar reports of attempted abductions in another area of the city.

Police said the man approached the children in his vehicle and offered them balloons so they would get inside, the alert stated.

3 leap from windows to escape

A woman and her 5-year-old jumped from a second-story window of their Gresham apartment Monday night to escape a man who had entered the home, police said.

Both remained hospitalized Tuesday, according to authorities.

About 10 p.m. Monday, an armed man broke into the apartment in the 800 block of West 76th Street and bound the people inside—a man, two women and a girl—police said.

While he was distracted, one of the women and the girl jumped out a window. The woman's boyfriend leaped out of a front window.

Teen dies after dragging

A teenage boy died Monday, a day after he was dragged down a street by a passenger in a car with which his car had collided in a Little Village intersection, authorities said.

The teenager was driving south in the 2400 block of South Hamlin Avenue Sunday when his vehicle was struck by a westbound vehicle, police said.

A passenger in the other vehicle grabbed Christopher Sodaro, 17, and that vehicle drove away while dragging Sodaro.

In struggle, man shoots leg

A man shot himself in the leg during a struggle with a police officer on the South Side on Tuesday afternoon, police said.

The shooting happened about 3:40 p.m. in the 1500 block of East 74th Street, police said. The man was taken to Jackson Park Hospital.

Police, citing a preliminary report, said they did not know what led to the struggle. No further details were immediately available.



Investigators peer down a manhole Tuesday after a city worker discovered a decomposing body in the storm drain in the 4500 block of North Clarendon Avenue in Uptown.

TERRENCE ANTONIO JAMES/TRIBUNE



UIC professor William Ayers stands outside his office Tuesday. CANDICE C. CUSIC/TRIBUNE

Professor Ayers keeps low profile

As his name was tossed back and forth Tuesday in the fury of the presidential campaign, 1960s radical William Ayers spent the day as he often does, working quietly as a professor and trying to ignore the political tempest.

Officials at the University of Illinois at Chicago say Ayers is on a previously scheduled sabbatical, but he was on campus Tuesday, sitting on a lunch-hour doctoral dissertation panel.

The man who was a Weather Underground member and decades later worked with Barack Obama is being increasingly cited by John McCain's supporters, who accuse Obama of "palling around with terrorists." Obama's campaign counters that McCain is using "smears" involving Ayers to distract voters from the economic crisis.

When the Tribune caught up with Ayers on Tuesday, he had no interest in joining the unpleasant conversation.

"What could I possibly add?" he asked from the door to his office. "Life happens."

Earlier in the campaign, Obama's controversial former pastor, Rev. Jeremiah Wright Jr., only heightened attention on his past remarks by

WHO IS WILLIAM AYERS?

Ayers was an anti-war activist in the late 1960s and early 1970s, and joined the Weathermen, which later became the Weather Underground. The group set off bombs at government buildings.

publicly defending them. In contrast, Ayers has avoided public statements, and indeed declined to comment further to the Tribune.

McCain told a St. Louis radio station Tuesday that he is likely to bring up Ayers at Wednesday night's debate. The Obama campaign seemed ready for that, unveiling a radio ad declaring: "When Ayers committed crimes in the '60s, Obama was 8 years old. Obama condemned those despicable acts. Ayers has had no role in Obama's campaign, and will have no role in his administration."

When Obama began his first state Senate bid in the mid-'90s, he visited Ayers' home for a meeting. Ayers and Obama also worked together on school reform issues. The McCain camp issued a statement Tuesday that Obama had "made an independent judgment to befriend an unrepentant terrorist."

Spam operation canned

The Federal Trade Commission said Tuesday that it has busted a global spam network responsible for sending billions of illegal messages encouraging consumers to buy unsafe male-enhancement and weight loss pills.

The FTC, which handles the civil aspect of illegal spam cases, asked the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois to issue a temporary injunction against two men in New Zealand and Texas, prohibiting them from sending spam and making false product claims.

The court also froze their assets, which may eventually be returned to consumers who bought the drugs.

Authorities in New Zealand are pressing their own case against the New Zealand man's brother, who is also accused of participating in the spam operation.

The FTC said it received more than three million complaints about spam related to the network. Officials are still tallying the sales volume, but estimate that the spammers' take was in the millions of dollars.

DIRTY DINING

Bridgeport eatery shuttered

Mayor Daley's Dumpster Task Force closed the Chinese Royal Kitchen in Bridgeport on Tuesday after city inspectors discovered a mouse infestation and other unsanitary conditions.

Inspectors said they found more than 440 mice droppings and more than 25 flying insects at the restaurant located at 220 W. 31st St. The restaurant can reopen after fixing its violations for inadequate pest control, failure to protect food contact surfaces from contamination and inadequate plumbing and passing a reinspection.

A manager did not return RedEye's phone call by press time.

CONNECTIONS

The spam network, which processed credit card information in Cyprus and Georgia, used servers in China to host its Web sites and also employed a "botnet," which is a network of computers—including ones in ordinary homes—that are hijacked to send spam.

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Suicides from financial crisis raise concerns

1 Mother indicted

Casey Anthony, the mother of missing 3-year-old Caylee Anthony, was accused in an indictment of killing her daughter, even though her body has not been found. An Orlando grand jury returned charges of first-degree murder, aggravated child abuse, aggravated manslaughter and lying to investigators.

2 Murderer executed

Ohio executed a 5-foot-7, 267-pound double murderer on Tuesday who argued his obesity made death by lethal injection inhumane. Richard Cooley, 41, died at 10:28 a.m. at the Southern Ohio Correctional Facility in Lucasville, a spokesman said.



3 U.S. to buy bank stocks

President Bush on Tuesday announced a \$250 billion plan by the government to directly buy shares in the nation's leading banks, saying the steps were "not intended to take over the free market but to preserve it." GETTY IMAGES

4 Insurgents in Afghanistan

U.S. military successes in Iraq have forced insurgents to pour into Afghanistan instead, part of the reason violence has spiked in Afghanistan, the Afghan defense minister said Tuesday in Kabul. Gen. Abdul Rahim Wardak said terrorists who would have once fought in Iraq have been "diverted" to Afghanistan.

Computer blamed in plunges

A faulty computer unit likely caused a Qantas jetliner to experience two terrifying midair plunges last week, an investigator said. More than 40 people were injured when the Airbus A330-300 briefly nose-dived twice during a flight from Singapore to Perth, Australia.

5 Mistreatment charges

A father and stepmother were charged with withholding their 14-year-old daughter's food and water so drastically that she weighed only 48 pounds, authorities said. Jon Pomeroy, 43, and his wife, Rebecca Long, 44, of Carnation, Wash., could face as much as four years in prison if convicted of criminal mistreatment.

6 Tests scrapped

The British government said Tuesday it was scrapping its national testing of 14-year-olds in math, reading and science. British parents and teachers have complained that kids are over-tested and that non-tested subjects are getting squeezed out. Testing will remain for 11-year-olds and 16-year-olds.

An out-of-work money manager in California loses a fortune and wipes out his family in a murder-suicide.

In Massachusetts, a housewife who had hidden her family's mounting financial crisis from her husband sends a note to the mortgage company warning: "By the time you foreclose on my house, I'll be dead."

Across the country, authorities are becoming concerned that the nation's financial woes could turn increasingly violent, and they are urging people to get help. In some places, mental-health hot

HOT LINES BUSY

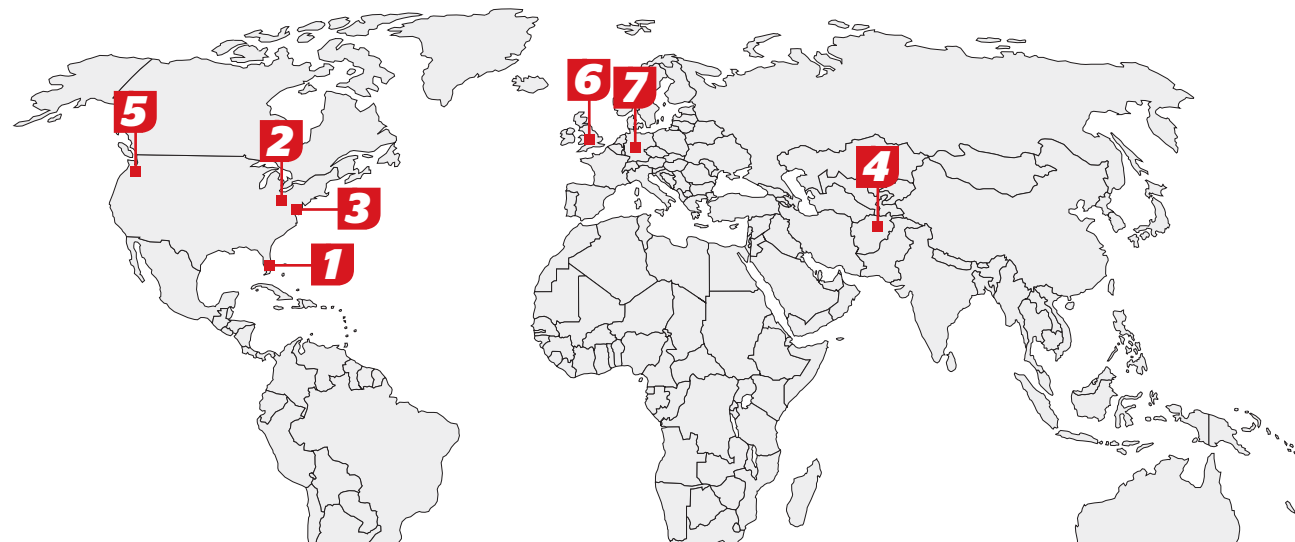
With nowhere else to turn, many people are calling suicide-prevention hot lines. The Samaritans of New York has seen calls rise more than 16 percent in the past year, many of them money-related. The Switchboard of Miami has recorded more than 500 foreclosure-related calls this year.

lines are jammed, counseling services are in high demand and domestic-violence shelters are full.

"I've had a number of people say that

this is the thing most reminiscent of 9/11 that's happened here since then," said Rev. Canon Ann Maloney, vicar at Trinity Church in the heart of New York's financial district. "It's that sense of having the rug pulled out from under them."

It's not yet clear there is a statistical link between suicides and the financial downturn since there is generally a two-year lag in national suicide figures. But historically, suicides increase in times of economic hardship. And the current financial crisis is already being called the worst since the Great Depression.



7 FRANKFURT, Germany A woman puts books into a board at the Book Fair in Frankfurt. This year's fair runs from Wednesday to Friday for members of the industry and opens its doors to the public on Saturday and Sunday. Organizers expect some 300,000 visitors to attend. AP

Text appeal

Forget face-to-face interaction. Text messaging is helping people better communicate with others, especially romantic interests, according to a survey of 1,000 adults released last week by AT&T. Here is how texters responded.

40% Believe that text messaging plays a significant or very significant role in their relationships

67% Use text messaging to flirt

68% Admitted to sending a love note via text messaging

34% Said they would be more comfortable if they texted their date before a first date

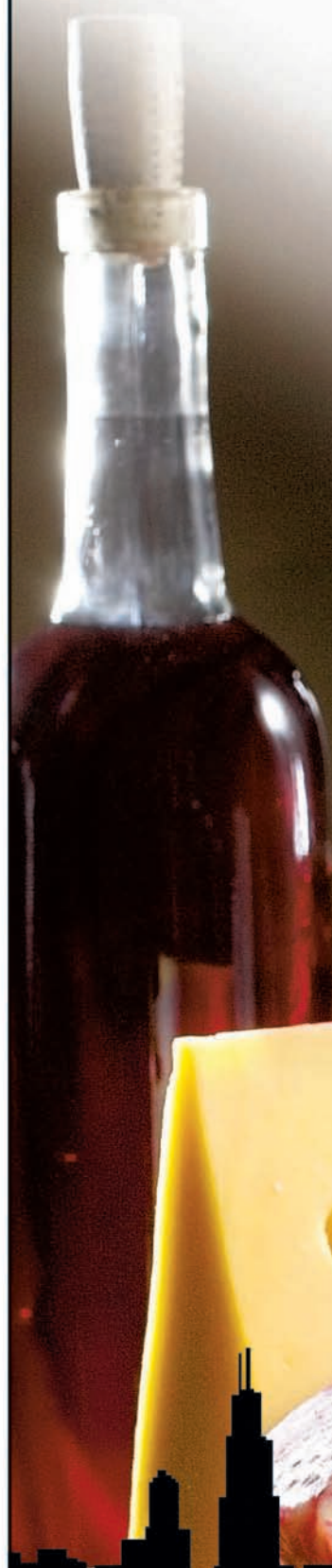
5% Have broken up with someone using a text

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Sports

CHICAGO'S GREAT DEBATE

They are not of presidential importance, but some Chicago sports debates just need to be answered. Let's dig right in, no moderators needed. **BY MICHAEL HINES, FOR REDEYE**



Ditka



Guillen

Fieriest leader

Which coach/manager has the most fire: Mike Ditka or Ozzie Guillen?

These two coaches have dropped enough f-bombs to make Eric Cartman blush. But, golly gee, they get results!

» GOOD

Ditka: Over 10 magical years, Da Coach gave us a Super Bowl title, a heart attack and a countless number of red-faced, YouTube-able tirades. This brat's for Ditka!

Guillen: Unconventional and unapologetic, Guillen squeezes every ounce of effort out of the White Sox. It paid off in 2005, when the South Siders won their first World Series title since 1917.

» BAD

Ditka: We can understand owning a restaurant, but should a blue-collar bruiser really put his name on a vintage of wine?

Guillen: Wine? Are you &\$\$#!\$@ kidding me?!? Is that %&#&\$ camera on?

» UGLY

Ditka: The Bears rout the New England Patriots 46-10 in the Super Bowl, and Ditka couldn't come up with one play to get Walter Payton in the end zone? Totally not Sweetness.

Guillen: Honest almost to a fault, Guillen can get in trouble when he publicly calls out players, coaches and Sun-Times columnists.

THE VERDICT: Who's the most ferocious leader? Text "**coach**" and "1" for Ditka or "2" for Guillen to **47383**. You'll get the results instantly.

Sammy Sosa

Chicago baseball legend or Chicago baseball blight?

A decade ago, Sosa seemed like a sure thing for the Hall of Fame. My, how things have changed.

» GOOD: Baseball was berry, berry good to Slammin' Sammy in 1998, when he hit 66 home runs and won the NL MVP award. Sosa finished his 18-year major-league career with a whopping 609 homers.

» BAD: Where did all of that power come from? Sosa proclaimed his innocence when he was summoned to Capitol Hill to testify in the congressional steroids probe.

» UGLY: Nothing like a tasty scandal to ruin a hero's rep. Sosa was suspended for seven games in 2003 after he was caught using a corked bat in a game at Wrigley Field. Sosa claimed he had accidentally used a batting practice bat in a game.

THE VERDICT: Help us decide if Sosa is a legend or a blight. Text "**sosa**" and "1" for legend or "2" for blight to **47383**. You'll get the results instantly.

Sammy Sosa's home-run hop
GETTY IMAGES FILE

Sosa during steroids probe
GETTY IMAGES FILE

txtable
CANINE HOTLINE

What do you think about these great debates? Send Whizzer your thoughts to redeyesports@tribune.com or just text **"whiz"** and your comment to **47383**.



My Rx for fantasy ills

As one of the world's leading Fantasy Sports Doctors (fantasportologists, technically), I've been treating a colossal amount of ailing fantasy football teams—and with good reason. There's been an epidemic of strange things afoot during the season, and it's hard to know where to turn from week to week. Now it's time to put Week 7 under the knife:


DR. FANTASY

BY D.R. SMITH
redeyesports@tribune.com

The power of pinkie

The fate of many fantasy teams rests in the broken right pinkie of Dallas quarterback Tony Romo, who is expected to be MIA for the next month. This might be good for Romo and Jessica Simpson's dating life, but it's bad for you if you've invested heavily in the Dallas offense.

With Felix Jones also out, Marion Barber will still be a good play, but you might want to consider benching Terrell Owens and the rest of the Dallas wideouts.

Who's the Manning?

Through the first few weeks of the season, Peyton Manning was overshadowed by little bro Eli, a shocking development that reminded me of the time Billy Baldwin briefly eclipsed his brother Alec's fame in the early '90s. But Sunday's game against a solid Ravens D might have been Peyton's "30 Rock." He and WRs Reggie Wayne and Marvin Harrison should be safe starts from here on out.

What the doctor ordered: (Players you should play this week)

Bernard Berrian, WR. Remember him, Bears fans? Since Gus Frerotte has taken over under center, Berrian's been on fire.

Roddy White, WR. He could have had three TDs Sunday against the Bears.

Bad medicine: (Players you should sit)

Chris Perry, RB. When you're losing carries to Cedric Benson, you know something isn't quite right here.

J.T. O'Sullivan, QB. He's maddeningly inconsistent, and his name makes him sound like a chain of Irish-themed bars.

D.R. SMITH IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR.

Best ever

Greatest Chicago sports accomplishment: 1985 Bears or the Bulls of the 1990s?

One team delivered a precious Super Bowl title; the other terrorized the NBA over six championship seasons.

» GOOD

Bears: Four words and a Roman numeral: Super Bowl XX champions, baby!

Bulls: Six titles in eight years. Six titles! When we close our eyes, we still see Michael Jordan grinning and shrugging to the camera.

» BAD

Bears: From the so bad it's good file, we present: "The Super Bowl Shuffle."

Bulls: What's with the two-year drought between three-peats? Weak!

» UGLY

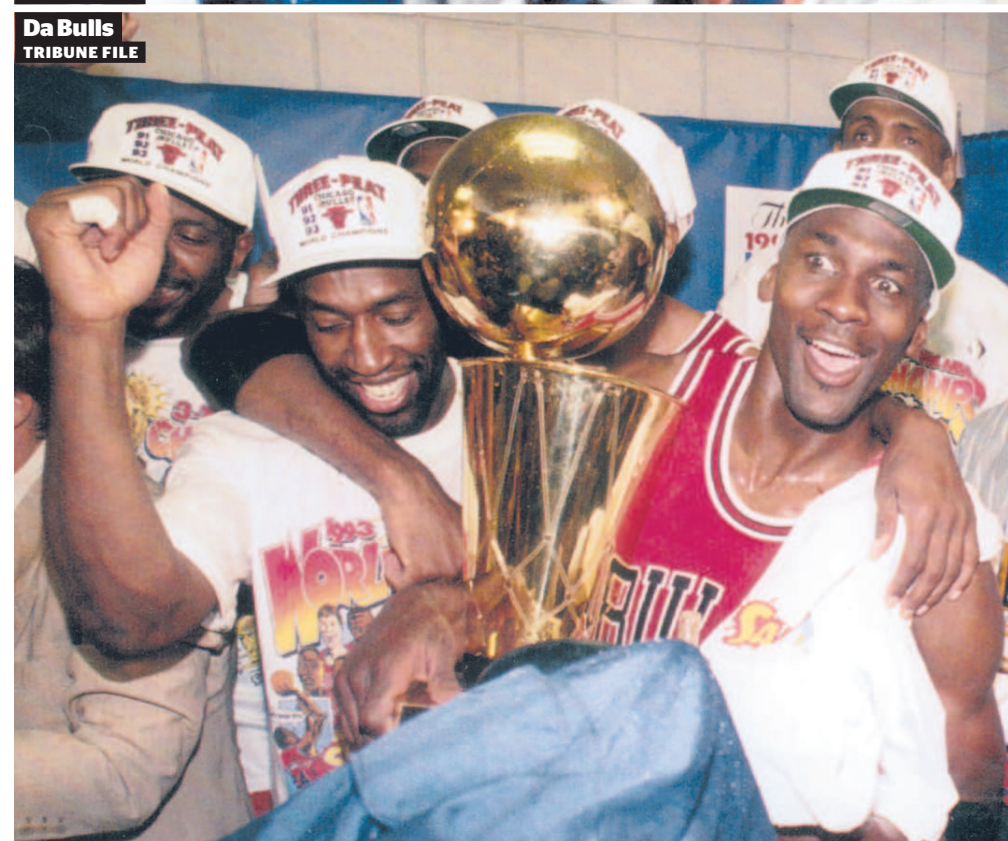
Bears: The '85 Bears are revered, but a lone December loss at Miami is what keeps the team from legend status.

Bulls: This championship hangover is killing us. A little help, Derrick Rose?

THE VERDICT: So which is greater: a Super Bowl or six NBA titles? Text **"great"** and "1" for the Bears or "2" for Bulls to **47383**. You'll get the results instantly.



Da Bears
TRIBUNE FILE



Da Bulls
TRIBUNE FILE

Paging Dr. Fantasy

RedEye's new fantasy columnist joins the panel. Mike North stays right where he is—online at wildfirerestaurant.com.



JIMMY GREENFIELD
jgreenfield@tribune.com



TRACY SWARTZ
tswartz@tribune.com



MIKE NORTH
northtonorth.com



BRIAN MOORE
brmoore@tribune.com



DR. FANTASY
redeyesports@tribune.com

1 The Bulls play Minnesota twice in 9 days; the Bears play Minnesota on Sunday. Why?

Minnesota's hookers hold a penny sale in late October.

Twin Cities, Twin Pities for Chicago fans.

They want the Chicago teams out of the way because ice-fishing season is coming up.

If you lived in Minnesota, you'd want to come to Chicago as often as possible too.

Twin Cities teams have to play in pairs. Jesse Ventura made it a state law, right?

2 When is it appropriate to take steroids?

Monday, Wednesday, Friday after legs. Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday after chest, tri's, bi's.

If, like Jimmy, you have growing pains.

Never have taken 'em. I like Raisin Bran.

In baseball, apparently only when you are chasing the all-time home run record.

When you're on Dr. Fantasy's fantasy football team, go ahead and juice it up!

3 Is there a football injury more ridiculous than a broken pinkie finger?

Yes, a brain cramp. Its main symptom is a squib kick with 11 seconds left.

Pulled groin. But as David Duchovny learned, there's rehab for that.

The old pulled buttock muscle is the one that's asinine.

Any sprained body part. It's football. You get hit. Suck it up.

I vote for the time Brian Griese once injured his ankle by tripping over his poodle. Yikes.

4 Speaking of injuries ... Ben Gordon has been out with an injured toe. Thoughts?

Is he still a Bull? Well, that's mildly interesting.

What will he tap now in the MN airport? Who will take one for the team?

I think Ben's feelings are sore.

If he would stop sticking his foot in his mouth, that might not happen.

As long as he doesn't use the old "I have an injured multi-year contract" excuse.

5 Who are you rooting for in the baseball playoffs?

I'm only rooting against now. No Dodgers, no Red Sox and no Rays. Figure the rest out.

The end credits. Give credits where credit is due.

Dodgers. I'd love to see Torre stick it to the Yankees.

The Rays. Floridians need a good sports story instead of Tracy's pun prowess.

I'm rooting for myself to stop drinking every night. I'm still not over the Cubs' early exit.



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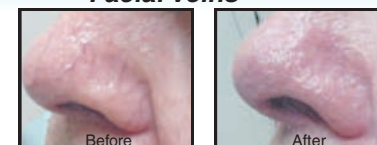
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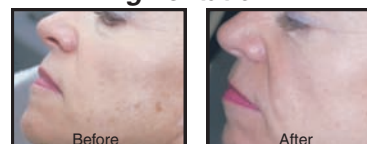
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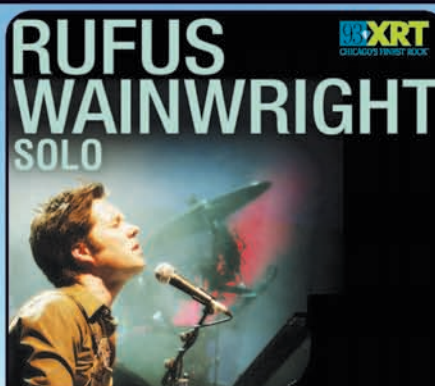
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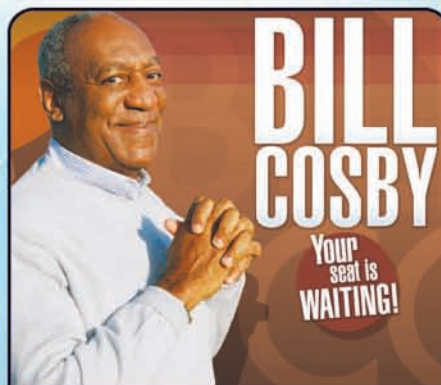
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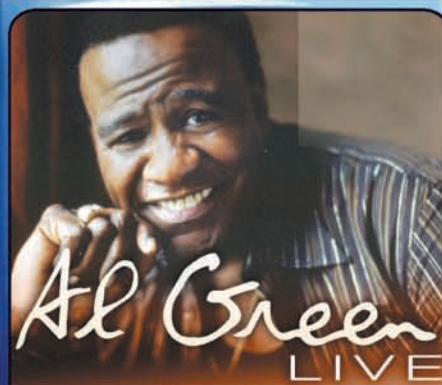
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My boy Adam "Pacman" Jones is in trouble again. There should be a reality show about him. Now there's a sports-related reality show I would watch.

Come to think of it, the misery of Cubs fans would make a good reality show too. Although that one might be suitable only for adults.

In the meantime, here's what to watch Wednesday.

NHL Blackhawks vs. Phoenix

7:30 p.m., CSN
The 0-3 Hawks are in search of their first win. Just like old times.

MLB PLAYOFFS Philadelphia at L.A.

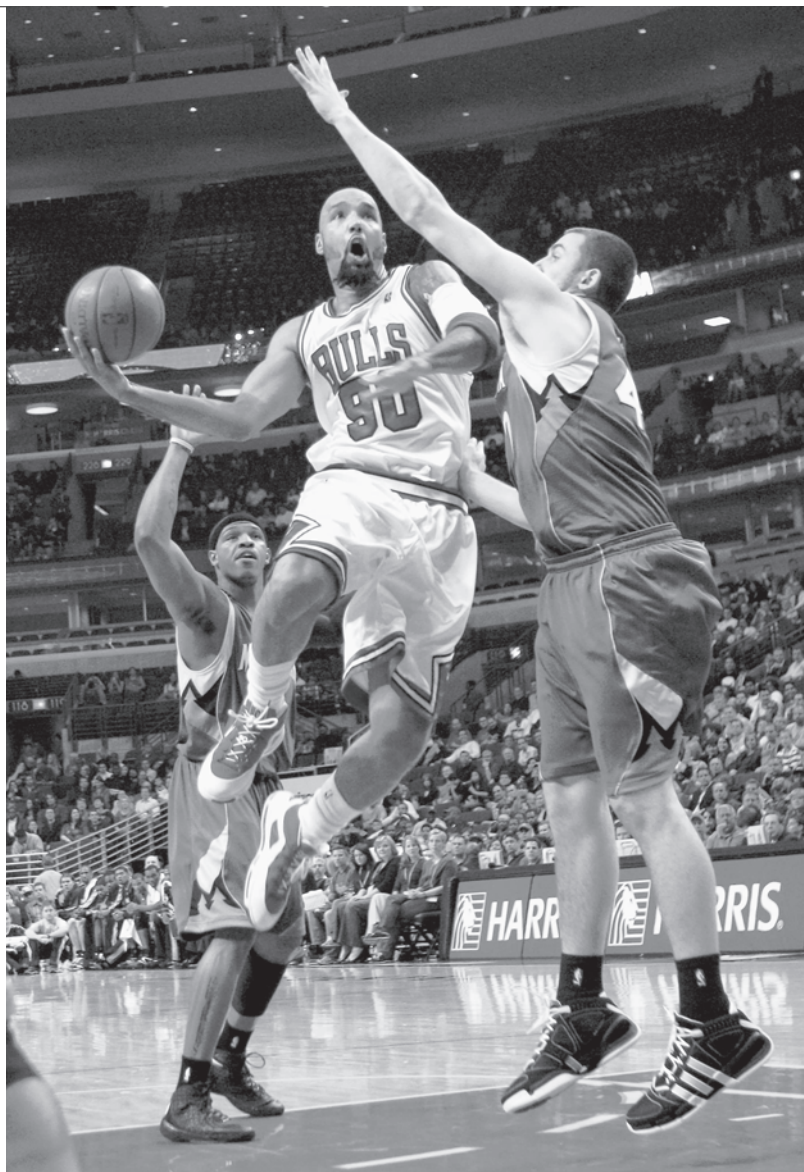
7 p.m., Fox
If Joe Torre were still managing in New York, the Yankees might be in the playoffs instead of the Dodgers.

MEN'S SOCCER U.S. at Trinidad and Tobago

7 p.m., ESPN
I hear this game is important. I wonder what the spread is?

NBA PRESEASON Milwaukee vs. Golden State

7 a.m., ESPN Classic
Live from China, it's NBA basketball! Why did we export these sorry teams?



Bulls still winless

Drew Gooden was speaking casually the other day about coach Vinny Del Negro and as often happens with the gregarious forward, the conversation took a humorous turn.

"As long as you work hard," Gooden said with a mischievous smile, "you can take pretty much any shot you want."

Returning from missing one game with a sore back, Gooden tested this theory with 13 shots and a game-high 20 points Tuesday night in the Bulls' 96-86 loss to the Timberwolves at the United Center.

So much is unknown about this Bulls team that now is 0-3 in a preseason that portends growing pains. But this much is certain: Gooden is going to play—and likely shoot—a lot.

In a nod to the unconventional big men the Bulls possess, Del Negro has made clear the Bulls will employ several small lineups this season. Gooden even started at center against the Timberwolves, ceding 15 pounds to the more conventional big man Al Jefferson.

"We have a young team, so I'm ready to do whatever I can to help," Gooden said. "If they

BULLS HITS

As Derrick Rose attended to a death in his family Monday, coach Vinny Del Negro introduced several new offensive sets at a near four-hour practice and film session. The result? Larry Hughes joined Kirk Hinrich in the starting backcourt and Rose came off the bench at the 3-minute, 37-second mark of the first quarter Tuesday night.

» Ben Gordon (toe) and Michael Ruffin (ankle) remained out Tuesday with injuries.

need me to score, I can score. I can dive on the floor for loose balls, rebound, whatever."

What the Bulls need from everyone is more consistent defense and fewer turnovers. After two straight sluggish starts against the Mavericks and Pacers, Del Negro had preached greater focus and effort from the opening tip.

The Bulls responded with a 30-point first quarter that featured a 19-point lead. But the Bulls then continued to struggle with decision-making in half-court sets and finished with 22 turnovers.

Chicago's Drew Gooden slices between Minnesota's Kevin Love (right) and Rashad McCants during an exhibition game at the United Center on Tuesday.

SCOTT STRAZ-
ZANTE/TRIBUNE

HOMETOWN HITS



The Bears moved rookie cornerback Zachary Bowman from the practice squad to the active roster, signing him to a four-year contract. Bowman was a Bears' fifth-round pick in the 2008 draft.



UP NEXT vs. Phoenix

Wednesday: 7:30 p.m.; CSN



After two botched kick returns against Michigan State, the Wildcats have made a change on special teams. Jaravin Matthews, who took over after Sherrick McManis fumbled away one kickoff and bobbled another, is listed as the kick returner on the depth chart for Saturday's game against Purdue, along with Omar Conteh.



Illinois will wear new basketball uniforms this season. And in an effort to improve team chemistry and send a message, coach Bruce Weber decided to take the players' names off the back. "Last year we had a tendency to worry about the name on the back and not the name on the front," Weber said.

ALCS Tampa Bay 13, Boston 4

Rays lead series 3-1.
Upstart Rays just one win from World Series.

Pacman's game over—for now

Dallas Cowboys cornerback Adam "Pacman" Jones was suspended indefinitely Tuesday for violating the league's personal conduct policy after an alcohol-related scuffle on Oct. 7. Jones will miss at least the next four games.

Lance skipping Tour?

Lance Armstrong has expressed doubts about racing in the Tour de France. "Everyone knows its importance, but the problems that I have with the organizers, journalists and fans could distract me from my mission—focusing the world's attention on the battle against cancer," Armstrong said Tuesday in Gazzetta dello Sport.

Name game

We consider it having fun with names, not making fun.



News: The Dallas Cowboys traded for wide receiver Roy Williams (right), who joins a team that already includes safety Roy Williams (left).

Conjoined name: WillRo²

What happens now: Roy, the receiver, could have an unfortunate debut Sunday when he accidentally goes into the game in place of Roy, the safety, when coach Wade Phillips yells out "Williams, you're in." Rams receiver Torrey Holt promptly burns him for a TD. T.O. won't be happy.

Solution: Like parents might do with twin children, one Roy must wear a string around his big toe for the rest of the season.

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Going whole hog

Wildly anticipated and years in the making, The Publican is finally ready for prime time

By M. Kathleen Pratt

They say good things come to those who wait. If that's true, The Publican, which finally opened Thursday in the Warehouse District, should be just about the best thing ever.

Few restaurants have been so hyped as this temple of beer, pork and seafood from some of the heaviest hitters on the Chicago restaurant and nightlife scene: Terry Alexander (Mia Francesca, Sonotheque, Violet Hour), Donnie Madia (Avec, Blackbird, Sonotheque), Eduard Seitan (Avec, Blackbird) and executive chef Paul Kahan (Avec, Blackbird). And few spots have been such a long time coming.

So what does nearly two years in the making get you? In this case, a surprisingly unfussy space. Madia and Thomas Schlessner, who designed Blackbird and Avec, also went to work here, and the result is similarly minimalist with just a few carefully chosen, grand focal points. Dozens of globe-sized ceiling lights

**first
look**

The Publican
845 W. Fulton
Market
312-733-9555

cast a warm glow over the otherwise stark room and the larger-than-life communal table that wraps around the center of it. Along one wall, wooden alcoves house booths, each with a pair of doors that swing shut for privacy.

In the room's center and fronting the floor-to-ceiling windows that open onto the sidewalk are three-tiered, standing-room-only wooden tables, a nod to European beer halls as well as a convenient way to appease overflow diners until a seat becomes available—reservations are accepted only Sundays (see below). The high tables are also ideal for snacking and scoping, and if opening week is any indication, they're where you'll find the trendier elements of the crowd perched after work and throughout the night.

The Publican opens at 3:30 p.m. Monday-Saturday with an abbreviated menu featuring only oysters (six varieties) and ham (three varieties). If you find yourself grazing later in the evening (dinner



starts at 5:30 p.m. daily), don't miss the crisp, salty pork rinds (\$5) and the addictive frites (\$5) with equally addictive aioli. And, of course, there's the beer.

It's hard to explain just how seriously The Publican takes beer. We could tell you that there are 12 wood-handled taps pouring cult faves such as Coffee Bender (\$8) from Minnesota's Surly Brewing Company and seldom-seen-on-draft selections like La Trappe (Koningshoeven) Quadrupel (\$11). We also could tell you that there are about 80 beers available by the bottle, or that there's a reserve list in the works. But none of that will drive the point home like a trip to the restroom, where in nearly every stall you'll find a single beer stein displayed under lights and behind glass with utmost reverence, like a museum piece. Now that's respect.

The food here bows respectfully to beer too—or perhaps it's the other way around. Either way, the two quickly become partners in a decadent plot to seduce you. Smaller plates, designed for sharing, include jarred pork rillettes (\$12) and a not-to-be-missed charcuterie plate (\$19) of game bird terrine, Morteau sausage and head cheese. Pork, as you might have gathered, makes its way into a good portion of the dishes. It even shows up in the salads—our chili-garlic vinaigrette-dressed heirloom apple salad (\$9)



A large beer selection and meat-focused dishes like boudin blanc (left) are at the heart of The Publican's menu. **BARRY BRECHSEIN FOR METROMIX**

was sprinkled with small strips of bacon, and in playful recognition of the hog-obsessed menu, a Little Gem organic lettuce salad is actually cheaper if you choose to add crispy pig's ears (\$8 without pig's ears, \$7 with).

Larger plates, such as the Lindeman's Gueuze Cuvee René-steamed Bouchot mussels (\$18), a wood-roasted half chicken with frites and summer sausage (\$20), and a potée of pork shank, belly and tenderloin with horseradish aioli (\$25) can be shared or ordered as individual entrees. We found at least one dish—a house-made

chicken and pork boudin blanc (\$15) served over frisée, roasted grapes and a crisp hash brown cake—that we'd just as soon keep to ourselves. And the only flaw we noticed opening week was that some dishes—the heirloom apple salad in particular—were oversalted. Of course, that's nothing the arsenal of palate-soothing beers can't remedy.

Besides, we can't blame the kitchen for being a bit overzealous right out of the gates. They've been waiting a long time for this too.

M. KATHLEEN PRATT IS THE METROMIX DINING PRODUCER. KPRATT@TRIBUNE.COM

A family affair

On Sundays, the kitchen breaks from the daily menu to serve **Sunday dinner**, a \$45 three-course set menu served family style. With drinks, tax and tip, the final tab comes out to about \$70-\$75 per person, which is roughly what you'd pay for a meal from the regular menu. In other words, it's not a back door for off-peak bargain hunters. What it is, however, is a chance to try some outstanding dishes you wouldn't otherwise find. The Publican's first Sunday dinner featured an entree choice of porchetta from Iowa's Becker Lane farm or slow-roasted Scottish salmon with beets, sorrel and leeks vinaigrette. The salmon was tasty, but the pork, served with slow-roasted cavolo nero (sometimes called Tuscan or dinosaur kale), was juicy and deeply flavorful—easily the best dish we tried at The Publican. **M.K.P.**



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Toast the weekend a little early with Metromix and live band karaoke at our **Wednesday Night Live** party, featuring a late-night electric set by Cobra Starship. Reserve your spot for a two-hour reception hosted by Jameson and Wild Turkey American Honey. 9 p.m. R.S.V.P.: metromixpromotions@tribune.com

wed
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Great debate

Venus Greek-Cypriot Cuisine, 820 W. Jackson Blvd. 312-714-1001.

Catch the final in-person faceoff between Barack Obama and John McCain at the restaurant's **Presidential Debate party**. Whether the televised tone is feisty or fatigued, you come out on top: The entire food menu and house cocktails are half-price. Watch on two TVs at the bar or a large projection screen in the restaurant. 6 p.m.; debate starts at 8 p.m. Reservations recommended.

Oh, 'Brothers'!

Lookingglass Theatre, 821 N. Michigan Ave. 312-337-0665.

Murder, passion and family drama unfold in Fyodor Dostoevsky's novel, "**The Brothers Karamazov**." See the story come to life in a new adaptation of the book, written and directed by ensemble member Heidi Stillman. Preview performances start tonight and offer a more affordable alternative (\$30) to full-price tickets (\$40-\$60). 7:30 p.m. Through Dec. 7. Tickets: lookingglasstheatre.org

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Opening night

Harris Theater for Music and Dance in Millennium Park,
205 E. Randolph Drive. 312-332-3456.

Get red carpet fever as actor Rachel Weisz and director Rian Johnson open the **44th Annual Chicago International Film Festival** with a screening of their comedy, "The Brothers Bloom." Stars arrive on the red carpet at 6 p.m.; screening starts at 7 p.m. \$35-\$40 for screening; \$80-\$100 includes afterparty. The fest continues through Oct. 29; stay tuned for our preview in Thursday's Metromix.

Dress to impress

Matisse, 674 W. Diversey Pkwy. 773-528-6670.

Give your Halloween getup a trial run at the **Get Dirty! Pre-Halloween Party**. The themed bash includes domestic beer, wine, sangria and cocktails, including the Dirty Erika, a dirty martini named for shutterbug Erika Cespedes, whose work is on display. 7 p.m. \$25.

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Break the bank

Macy's, 111 N. State St.

How much are you willing to dish out for a dish? The swanky **20th Annual Celebrity Chef Ball** is a pricey weekend kickoff, but with 60 chefs on board, including "Top Chef" stars Stephanie Izard and Radhika Desai, we think it's worth compromising your mattress stash. Choose a four-course meal (6 p.m. \$350) or desserts only (8 p.m. \$125). Includes casino games, a DJ and a raffle. 6 p.m.

HOW TO REACH US | FOR ENTERTAINMENT INFORMATION 24/7, GO TO METROMIX.COM.

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For questions, comments and story ideas, contact Matt McGuire, editor, at mmcguire@tribune.com

To submit event information for Metromix or metromix.com, go to metromix.com/listings.



Radhika Desai
FILE FOR METROMIX

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FILE FOR METROMIX

Metromix's top dining picks

SHAW'S CRAB HOUSE

Raise a glass to everyone's favorite bivalve at **Royster with the Oyster**. The 20th annual festival features oyster-focused specials, nightly slurping contests (6 p.m.) and more. A tent party (3-10 p.m. Friday, \$10) includes a shucking contest (4:30 p.m. Friday) and Goose Island beer. Festivities start at 11:30 a.m. Wed.-Thu., 3 p.m. Fri. 21 E. Hubbard St. 312-527-2722.

LUSH WINE AND SPIRITS

Sample wine and appetizers at the University Village shop during a **wine tasting** benefitting Girls on

the Run. \$30. Registration required: **active.com**. 7 p.m. Thursday. 1257 S. Halsted St. 312-266-8200.

LUXEHOME MERCHANDISE MART

Indulge for a good cause when top local chefs such as Rick Bayless (Frontera Grill), Gale Gand (Tru) and Paul Kahan (Blackbird) whip up dishes for **A Taste for the Arts**, benefiting the Chicago Academy for the Arts. Includes cocktails and performances by academy students. \$250-\$500; 6 p.m. Thursday. 222 Merchandise Mart Plaza First Floor. 312-503-0427.

ALLIANCE FRANCAISE DE CHICAGO

2 p.m. Sun.: Wines of Alsace. Michael Corso, owner of Michael Corso Selections, leads a tasting of 2007 vintages from the French region. \$45-\$55; 810 N. Dearborn St. 312-337-1070.

BIN 36

11 a.m.-2 p.m. Wed.-Fri.: No-Tax Lunch. The restaurant picks up the tax on lunch orders; 339 N. Dearborn St. 312-755-9463.

CAFE CIAO

Wed.-Fri.: Oktoberfest at Cafe Ciao. Get \$2 domestic bottles, \$3 import bottles and \$5 microbrews. The Oktoberfest menu includes brats and sauerkraut and beer-bettered onion rings. From 6-9 p.m. Friday,

participate in a beer tasting for \$15; 939 W. Madison St. 312-850-2426.

DRAKE HOTEL

7 p.m. Sat.: Tour de Champagne Chicago. Sample bubbly from more than 20 vineyards paired with tastes from local restaurants. Includes live music and a silent auction benefiting Heifer International. After-party for VIP ticket holders (\$160) at Pops for Champagne (601 N. State St.) \$120-\$160; 140 E. Walton Pl. 978-340-5257.

GEJA'S CAFE

Wed.-Sat.: Sweetest Day at Geja's Cafe. Share half-price bottles (\$22) and glasses (\$10.18 for two) of Gruet demi-sec; 340 W. Armitage Ave. 773-281-9101.

GIOCO

11:30 a.m. Sat.: Bears Dining Deal. Dine at the restaurant before the game and leave your car with the valet for \$10 until the game ends; 1312 S. Wabash Ave. 312-939-3820.

HYDE PARK FARMER'S MARKET

9 a.m. Thu.: Free Fall Cooking Demonstration. Get tips on picking seasonal produce and learn how to prepare turkey burgers with coleslaw and cranberry mayonnaise. Includes samples and a raffle; 5200 S. Harper Ave. 773-241-5200.

KOHAN JAPANESE RESTAURANT

11:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Wed.-Sun.: \$11.95 unlimited maki

lunch buffet; Wed.-Sun.: 15 percent birthday discount on food bill; Thu.: \$5 green tea mojitos; Fri.-Sat.: \$5 select martinis and cocktails; 730 W. Maxwell St. 312-421-6254.

MARCHE

8 p.m. Wed.: 15th Anniversary Celebration. A birthday party for the restaurant includes burlesque performers, Dr. Seuss entertainers and raffle prizes. Also includes appetizers and select cocktails. \$15; 833 W. Randolph St. 312-226-8399.

NINE

5-7 p.m. Wed.-Thu.: Complimentary food; 440 W. Randolph St. 312-575-9900.

NACIONAL 27

5:30-6:15 p.m. Wed.-Sun.: \$29.95

three-course Latin meal with wine or sangria; 325 W. Huron St. 312-664-2727.

THE RITZ- CARLTON CHICAGO

3 p.m. Fri.: Barbara Fairchild Author Tea. The editor-in-chief of Bon Appetit magazine signs copies of "The Bon Appetit Cookbook: Fast Easy Fresh," a new collection of more than 1,200 recipes. Includes an afternoon tea inspired by the book and prepared by pastry chef Eric Estrella and executive chef Mark Payne. \$40; 160 E. Pearson St. 312-573-5011.

SPIRIT OF CHICAGO

8 p.m. Sat.: Sweetest Day at Spirit of Chicago Cruises.

A three-hour Lake Michigan outing includes dinner, live music, a DJ and a view of the Navy Pier fireworks. Boarding begins one hour before departure. \$79.90; 600 E. Grand Ave. 866-211-3804.

WENDELLA SIGHTSEEING BOATS

3:30 p.m. Sat.: Wine and Waves Tour. Sample wines from Kafka Wine Company (3325 N. Halsted St.), olive oils from Ta-Ze Chicago (520 N. Michigan Ave.) and homestyle Italian food from Buca di Beppo (521 N. Rush St.) on a guided, two-hour architectural boat tour down the Chicago River. \$57. Tickets: **wendellaboats.com**; 400 N. Michigan Ave. 312-337-1446.

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Party fouls

These tales from local party personalities will get you in the spirit

By Lisa Arnett

As Halloween slinks closer, fake cobwebs and fun-size candy bars aren't going to cut it when it comes to spooking us into the spirit. Instead, we looked to the personalities behind three sure-to-be-huge parties to do the trick.

Nate Arling, Double Door

1572 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-489-3160

For the 12th year, local bands will masquerade as popular music acts (from The Sleepers as Aerosmith to Blackbox as Michael Jackson) at a typically sold-out **Halloween Bash** Oct. 31. We chatted with Nate Arling, who has booked bands for the show since manager Lorri Francis and Scott Lucas of Local H retired from organizing it two years ago.

Scariest thing ever seen: "I was in Mexico City on tour with my band [The Last Vegas], and we went into a torture museum from the Spanish Inquisition. One device was a huge spike thing that they would stick through one part of your body and out the other ... in a way that wouldn't hit any vital organs. Then they would put you in the middle of the city ... for a couple days and people would spit on you and throw stones at you."

Favorite costume: "One year our door guy actually dressed up as a human guest list. He had a big white shirt on that looked like paper, and he had all the names of all the regulars on there."

Favorite Halloween candy: "Beer. Or maybe that nasty, stale peanut butter stuff. When you just smell that stuff, it just brings you back to being a kid."

Why we should come to your party: "We put the pressure on the bands and say, 'Hey, if you're going to do this show, you need to take it seriously and look the part, sound the part.' Musicianship-wise, some bands will pick bands [to impersonate] that they don't necessarily sound like, which is cool for the fans."

Brad Balof, Sidetrack

3349 N. Halsted St. 773-477-9189

The extended Halloween holiday begins with Sidetrack's annual **Night of 100 Drag Queens** revue (Oct. 21-22) and continues until the bar's Oct. 31 blowout, when the **North Halsted Street Halloween Parade** is televised live on big-screens and a costume contest draws some of the most creative get-ups in town. We tapped longtime party emcee and manager Brad Balof for the scoop.

Favorite costume ever seen: "One year the winner for our costume contest was someone who came ... as Frida Kahlo's self-portrait. He had a stuffed monkey on his shoulder and was carrying around this big picture frame, which even had a little light on the inside [of it] shining down on his face."

Favorite costume ever worn: "One year I was Goddess of the Stars, and I wore a sheer unitard covered with rhinestones. Last year, I was the little boy from 'Where the Wild Things Are' with the white fur and ears."

Costume predictions: "I predict that Sarah Palin will be one of the most done drag costumes this year. There will be enough Sarah Palins to staff the House of Representatives."

Why we should come to your party: "Well, they do call Halloween the big gay high holiday. It's for 6-year-olds and gay people; they're the demographics that really enjoy Halloween to its utmost extent. People will filter in and out and go other places, but at some point, they're coming to Sidetrack ... so you know you're going to see every costume on the street."



The "Undead" at Uncle Fatty's
CHUAN D. VO FOR METROMIX

Brian Galati, Uncle Fatty's

2833 N. Sheffield Ave. 773-477-3661

This Lincoln Park party bar has shifted its theme from beachy Rum Resort to spooked-out Terror Island for the month of October. We chatted with co-owner Brian Galati, who tells us the bar's namesake, Uncle Fatty, will reportedly make an appearance at the bar's **Halloween Party** Oct. 31.

Scariest thing ever seen: "At a bar in Tennessee, I saw a big meathead football player chug a Capri box of wine. He finished and proceeded to puke in his girlfriend's purse. The scariest part wasn't that he puked, though; it was that the bar carried boxed wine."

Best Halloween costume: "A 15-foot Mount Rushmore. It was a complete recreation, and the guy's actual face was Thomas Jefferson, but by the end of the night ... the costume broke in half, and when he passed out, he was facedown on top of Lincoln."

Favorite scary movie: "'Bring It On.' Cheerleaders are ruthless."

Why we should come to your party: "You can expect the wildest party in Chicago. A sexiest costume contest, most original costume contest—and all the staff dresses up. [We've decorated with] 15-foot spiders, tombstones, miles and miles of webbing, zombies hanging from the ceiling, reapers and a complete cast of undead."

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CELTIC CROWN PUBLIC HOUSE

\$4 Guinness, Bass and black 'n' tan drafts, \$5.99 shepherd's pie, \$12 domestic table tappers, half-price Harp drafts and select cocktails, pub trivia 7:30 p.m.; 4301 N. Western Ave. 773-588-1110.

CHINASKI'S

7:30 p.m.: Literary Open Mic; 1935 N. Damen Ave. 773-489-2353.

DELILAH'S

\$2 PBR longnecks and Old Crow cocktails; 2771 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-472-2771.

DRIFTWOOD

\$3.50 Heineken and

Amstel bottles; 1021 W. Montrose Ave. 773-975-3900.

EVIL OLIVE

Simply Soul Wednesdays. \$6 20-ounce Stella bombs, DJs spin. \$5; 1551 W. Division St. 773-235-9100.

EXIT

\$3 PBR drafts, \$3 Miller High Life cans, \$4 Jack Daniel's cocktails, DJ Andrew Vonn and friends spin rock and hair metal; 1315 W. North Ave. 773-395-2700.

FEARON'S PUBLIC HOUSE

\$4 Blue Moon drafts, \$5 Kilo Kai and Coke cocktails, \$6 chicken

fajitas; 3001 N. Ashland Ave. 773-248-0990.

FIVE STAR BAR

9 p.m.: Loaded. DJs Pogo, Arturo, James Vane and Johnny Kesh spin. 1424 W. Chicago Ave. 312-850-2555.

GALLERY CABARET

\$3 Alpha King and Newcastle drafts, Kate Parker hosts "The Callback" 8-9 p.m.; 2020 N. Oakley Ave. 773-489-5471.

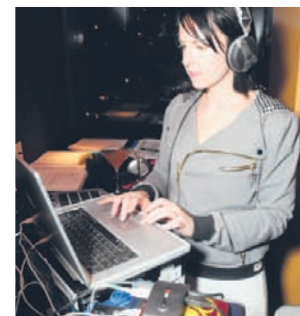
GLASCOTT'S

\$3.50 Guinness, Harp and Smithwick's pints; 2158 N. Halsted St. 773-281-1205.

NIGHTCRAWLERS

Sky view

A penthouse party at your coolest (and richest) friend's posh pad—that's what **Vertigo** (2 W. Erie St. 312-202-6060), the new rooftop lounge on the 26th floor of the Dana Hotel, aspires to. Outside, an Astroturf-covered terrace sports killer views down State Street. Inside, classy drinks like Singapore Slings, a screening room and waitresses pushing cocktail carts lend a decidedly retro spin. Visit metromix.com for more pics and upcoming events.



Shaw's Royster with the Oyster

Annual Oyster Fest Tent Party

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Tommy Castro
7:30 - 9:30pm

More Party Updates at:
www.shawscrabhouse.com

GOODBAR

\$3 Bud and Bud Light bottles, \$4 Jager shots; 2512 N. Halsted St. 773-296-9700.

HIDEOUT

\$2 PBR and Old Style cans, \$2.50 Berghoff bottles; 1354 W. Wabansia Ave. 773-227-4433.

INNJOY

\$1 off glasses of wine, \$4 Newcastle drafts, \$6 fruity margaritas, half-price large pizzas; 2051 W. Division St. 773-394-2066.

KIT KAT LOUNGE AND SUPPER CLUB

8 p.m. "Project Runway" viewing party. Watch the fashion reality show finale on jumbo screens with Chicago fashion designer and Season 4 alum Steven Rosengard. Food and drink specials include half-price cocktails and two-for-one entrees. No cover; 3700 N. Halsted St. 773-525-1111.

LANDMARK

Wino Wednesdays. Complimentary flatbread pizzas with wine bottle purchase (6-8 p.m.), \$5 Absolut vodka cocktails; 1633 N. Halsted St. 312-597-1600.

LAVA

The Seminar. Guest DJs spin 7 p.m. \$3-\$10; 1270 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-342-5282.

MAD RIVER BAR & GRILLE

\$2 Coors Light drafts, \$3 Blue Moon pints and Coors Light bottles, \$5 wraps, flatbreads and Ketel One cocktails, Guitar Hero tournament 9 p.m.; 2909 N. Sheffield Ave. 773-935-7500.

MARTINI PARK

6 p.m.: Martinis and the City. A girls' night out-themed party features a different retail brand, salon, spa or vendor each week. Includes appetizers and \$7 specialty cocktails; 151 W. Erie St. 312-640-0577.

PEOPLE LOUNGE

\$3 sangria glasses and Miller Light bottles, \$5 Absolut cocktails, DJ 14K and guests spin 9 p.m. No cover; 1560 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-227-9339.

PLAN B

\$1 Bud Light drafts, half-price appetizers and wine bottles, Chris Grant of Trippin' Billies hosts an open mic 9 p.m. No cover; 1635 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-252-2680.

RELAX LOUNGE

\$6 Effen cocktails, \$5 Jack Daniels cocktails, \$2 domestic beer bottles; 1450 W. Chicago Ave. 312-666-6006.

SILVER CLOUD BAR & GRILL

\$5 Jack Daniels, Jim Beam and Jameson cocktails; 1700 N. Damen Ave. 773-489-6212.

SLAINTE

\$3 Labatt drafts, \$5 Jager bombs, open mic 10 p.m. 2138 N. Halsted St. 773-348-3665.

SPIN

\$1 well drinks, wine and domestic drafts, VJs Riley York and Bryan, DJ Chris Eterno spin. \$5; 800 W. Belmont Ave. 773-327-7711.

THE SPOT

Half-price wine bottles, \$10 all-you-can-eat wings, karaoke 9 p.m. No cover; 4437 N. Broadway. 773-728-8934.

SPYBAR

DJ Gus Karas spins hip-hop, rock, mash ups and house; 646 N. Franklin St. 312-337-2191.

STATE RESTAURANT & CAFE

Half-price food and wine bottles; 935 W. Webster Ave. 773-975-8030.

SUBTERRANEAN

\$3 Tecates and Ketel One lemon drop shots, DJs Sean Alvarez and Christian Armand spin. No cover; 2011 W.

Random Acts of Greatness

5 things we're loving this week

» Nikka Costa's just-released "**Pebble to a Pearl**," which puts soul in your funk and funk in your soul.

» Executive pastry chef Elissa Narow's "**S'mores**" dessert at Custom House (500 S. Dearborn St. 312-523-0200).

» Daily **dim sum** at Chinatown's Phoenix Restaurant (2131 S. Archer Ave. 312-328-0848). Get your fill of dumplings, bao and pork buns without exhausting your brunch fund. Get there early for a window seat and a great view of the city's skyline.

» The Morse Theatre's nod to **Midwestern beers**. Find Sprecher Black Bavarian from Wisconsin, Summit Hefeweizen from Minnesota and Two Brothers French Country Ale from west-suburban Warrenville (\$5 each) among the draft selections (1327 Morse Ave. 773-654-5100).

» The wacky **graphic hoodies and tees** at Kidrobot's pop-up shop in Wicker Park (1573 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-486-4820).

Join the randomness!

What are you loving this week? Log onto **metromix.com** to send us your own Random Acts of Greatness. You might just spot your pick in a future issue.

North Ave. 773-278-6600.

SUSHISAMBA RIO
DJ Ed M spins 10 p.m.
No cover; 504 N. Wells St. 312-595-2300.

TAKE FIVE
\$2 Miller Lite and MGD drafts; 3747 N. Southport Ave. 773-871-5555.

TINI MARTINI ULTRA LOUNGE
9 p.m.: Tough Love Wednesdays. DJs Bear Who?, Trilogy, NewLife, Julio Bishop and DVS spin. No cover; 2169 W. Milwaukee Ave. 773-433-0417.

TSUNAMI
7 p.m.: Wine Pairing Wednesday. Sample five Japanese vintages and culinary creations at this monthly tasting.

A wine expert is on hand to discuss the pairings. \$45; 1160 N. Dearborn St. 312-642-9911.

UNCLE FATTY'S
7-9 p.m.: Twister contest. Drink specials include \$3 Bud and Bud Lights, \$5 Bacardi cocktails, \$20 swamp waters; 2833 N. Sheffield Ave. 773-477-3661.

VINTNER'S CELLAR WINERY
8 p.m.: "Project Runway" viewing party. No cover; 2048 W. Belmont Ave. 773-290-2797.

WATERHOUSE
\$4 chocolate martinis, half-price wine, trivia contest 8 p.m.; 3407 N. Paulina St. 773-871-1200.

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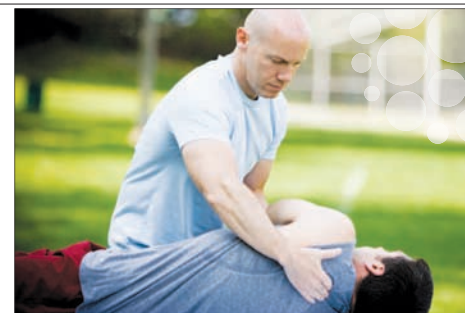
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HODGKINS 9402 Joliet Rd. 708-387-0554 ★
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Yelle: Let's talk about sex

French singer calls for discussion—in lyrics you won't understand

By Matt Pais

Chances are you're not fluent in French. But when you hear French pop singer Yelle, chances are you won't care what language you do or don't speak.

That's because, even though the rising international phenomenon (real name: Julie Budet) sings only in French, she fills her 2007 debut album "Pop-Up" with so many irresistible radio and club hits-in-waiting that DJs—and people just looking for a reason to shake it—would be foolish not to take notice. Of course, behind the bouncy material and colorful outfits is some risqué material, as Budet riffs on sub-

Yelle

When: 7 p.m. Tuesday

Where: Logan Square Auditorium, 2539 N. Kedzie Ave.

Tickets: \$20, 773-728-6000

jects such as masturbation and lesbian temptation.

Budet speaks English too, but she unfortunately struggled to understand several of our questions. (Multiple attempts to discover if the French want Paris Hilton to change her name were misinterpreted as questions about performing in America or about Perez Hilton, who debuted Yelle's video "Ce Jeu" on his blog.) Here's a roundup of info Budet, 25, offered on the phone from Sao Paulo, Brazil.

On why people enjoy songs about lesbian temptation, like Yelle's "Les Femmes (The Women)" and Katy Perry's "I Kissed a Girl": "I think maybe today it's easier to talk about your sexual orientation. It's not a problem today to say, 'I am a heterosexual, but I can have an experience with a girl.' In France it's already really taboo to talk about sex on TV or on the radio, and people don't want to hear that because lots of young people listen and watch the TV. But I think if you found the good way to talk about sex it's not a problem. And

you can say, 'OK, I can have experience with a girl.' Katy Perry, with 'I Kissed a Girl,' she's young, she's 22 or 23, and she comes from the same generation [as] me, you know. It's a more free generation. We just want to be free in our life and in our sexuality. We can test and you can have lesbian experiences. It's not a problem. And we can stay with a boy."

If wild styles in photos and videos represent what she wears normally: "We try to be different and to give different views of our style because I have different [faces].

Sometimes I can be shy. Sometimes I can be more expressive. It's important for me to have these different parts in the video too, and in the style too. I can be in totally black and maybe after I can wear something more colorful. It's not a problem because for me it's [reflective] of my personality. Normally I have always something colorful on me. Sometimes it's a bag, or my shoes."

On something that Yelle would do that Budet wouldn't: "It's not a character. It's a real part of me. It's just an exten-

sion. In real life maybe I'm a little bit shy, and maybe [Yelle is] my really expressive part. And it's really important for me to keep the two parts on stage. And of course when I'm on stage, I'm more expressive than in real life."

On her live show: "It's really [a] rock and electro show. It was really important to give another view of our album because it's really pop, but then on stage it's more rock 'n' roll and more powerful."

Her sales pitch for the album: "I think it's an album for my

generation. It's an album [that] talks about my real life, talks about the real life of a 25-year-old girl, about love and sex and parties. It's really full of joy. With this album I just want to make people have fun and to give pleasure to the people."

On non-French fans not understanding her lyrics: "At the beginning when we start to write in French, it was the question, 'Maybe it would be a problem for us.' And in fact it's really crazy because we have messages from people who say to us, 'OK, we don't understand

but we find translation on the Web and we try to know what to sing.' It's really cool for me to know that. English people and Spanish people can understand some typical French expressions, 'Comme ci comme ca,' 'C'est la vie,' 'Je ne vous,' and we use these little expressions in our songs. So it's not so complicated, I think. [Laughs] You can understand some words. It's really, really about the music."

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Yelle

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GREAT AMERICAN TAXI

Anyone feel like having a barbecue? *With The Stretch.* 8 p.m. \$10. Martyrs', 3855 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-404-9869.

CROOKED FINGERS

Good-enough orchestral indie from Denver, though we prefer their neighbors in DeVotchKa. *With The Ugly Suit.* 9 p.m. \$12. Schubas, 3159 N. Southport Ave. 773-525-2508.

4 WOMEN ONLY

9 p.m. \$10 suggested donation. Uncommon Ground on Devon, 1401 W. Devon Ave. 773-465-9801.

ALFONSO PONTICELLI AND SWING GITAN

9 p.m. \$25-\$30. The Green Mill, 4802 N. Broadway. 773-878-5552.

ALICE COOPER TRIBUTE:

SINISTER FATE, SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL, TRYST

9 p.m. \$5. Double Door, 1572 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-489-3160.

ANNA MAURY

8:30 p.m. Cover varies. The Underground Wonder Bar, 10 E. Walton St. 312-266-7761.

ARI BROWN QUARTET

5 p.m. \$5. Andy's Jazz Club, 11 E. Hubbard St.

312-642-6805.

BIG TIME

9 p.m. Free. Quenchers Saloon, 2401 N. Western Ave. 773-276-9730.

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9:30 p.m. \$7. B.L.U.E.S., 2519 N. Halsted St. 773-528-1012.

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8:30 p.m. \$7. Elbo Room, 2871 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-549-5549.

CELTIC THUNDER

8 p.m. \$37.50-\$57.50. Rosemont Theatre,

5400 N. River Rd., Rosemont. 312-559-1212.

CHRISSEY GARDNER

8 p.m. Free. Davenport's (in the piano bar), 1383 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-278-1830.

COBRA STARSHIP, FOREVER THE SICKEST KIDS, SING IT LOUD

6 p.m. \$15-\$17. House of Blues, 329 N. Dearborn St. 312-923-2000.

DANILO PEREZ TRIO

8 and 10 p.m. Cover varies. Jazz Showcase, 806 S. Plymouth Ct. 312-360-0234.

THE GOOD FOOT

9 p.m. Free. Wells on Wells, 1617 N. Wells St. 312-944-1617.

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9 p.m. \$8. Blue Chicago at Ohio, 536 N. Clark St. 312-661-0100.

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9:30 p.m. \$12. Kingston Mines, 2548 N. Halsted St. 773-477-4646.

KENNY PHELPS

8 p.m. Free. Redhead Piano Bar, 16 W. Ontario St. 312-640-1000.

KILLER

RAY ALLISON

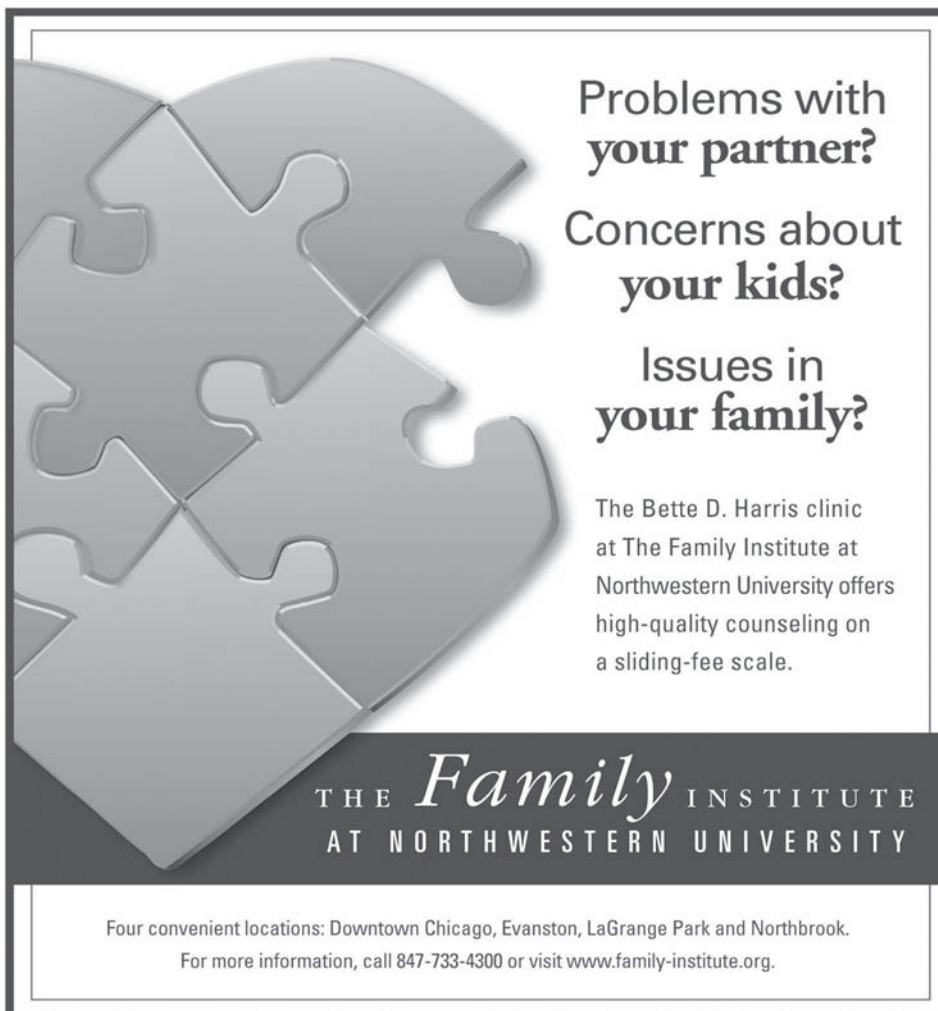
9:30 p.m. \$7. Rosa's Lounge, 3420 W. Armitage Ave. 773-342-0452.

LA PENA:

BIO RITMO

8:30 p.m. \$5 suggested donation, reservations recommended. Old Town School of Folk

»» page 33



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MIKE FINNERTY PRO JAZZ JAM
8 p.m. Free. Bill's Blues Bar, 1029 Davis St., Evanston. 847-424-9800.

MIKE SMITH QUARTET
9 p.m. \$10. Andy's Jazz Club, 11 E. Hubbard St. 312-642-6805.

MIRAH, NO KIDS
8 p.m. \$15. Epiphany, 201 S. Ashland Ave. 773-276-3600.

PETER MILETIC
11:45 p.m. Free. Redhead Piano Bar, 16 W. Ontario St. 312-640-1000.

ROB PARTON'S JAZZTECH BIG BAND, CHICAGO COLLEGE OF PERFORMING ARTS JAZZ ORCHESTRA
7:30 p.m. \$5-\$10. FitzGerald's, 6615 Roosevelt Rd., Berwyn. 708-788-2118.

RYAN SUZUKA
7 p.m. Tips/donations. Uncommon Ground on Clark, 3800 N. Clark St. 773-929-3680.

SHIRLEY KING
9 p.m. Free. The Joynt, 650 N. Dearborn St. 312-573-2233.

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8 p.m. \$8-\$10. SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston. 847-492-8860.

TEAM ROCKIT, MUSICAL PARACHUTE
9 p.m. Free. Red Line Tap, 7006 N. Glenwood Ave. 773-274-5463.

THOMAS FUNCTION, MOTHER OF TEARS, THREE HARDY MUMS
9:30 p.m. \$8. Empty Bottle, 1035 N. Western Ave. 773-276-3600.

TONY DO ROSARIO TRIO
9 p.m. Free. Pops for Champagne, 601 N. State St. 312-266-7677.

TONY MALABY CELLO TRIO
9:30 p.m. \$8. Hideout, 1354 W. Wabansia Ave. 773-227-4433.

VINCENT DAVIS AND PERCUSSION PLUS!
8:30 p.m. Cover varies. The Velvet Lounge, 67 E. Cermak Rd. 312-791-9050.

WALLY DOGGER
8 p.m. Cover varies. Reggie's Rock Club, 2109 S. State St. 312-949-0120.

THE WHIPSAWS, DOLLAR STORE, THE LOST CARTOGRAPHERS
9 p.m. \$8. Beat Kitchen, 2100 W. Belmont Ave. housecallent.com

ZMEU, TRUE HIDDEN CONSPIRACY, STOMOXYS CALCITRANS
8 p.m. \$6-\$9. Bottom Lounge, 1375 W. Lake St. 312-666-6775.



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Heidi's dish

Los Angeles Times

Season 5 of "Project Runway" doesn't end until Wednesday, but host and executive producer Heidi Klum is already focusing on the future of the show. She's currently taping the sixth season of the design competition—set in L.A. instead of New York. Recently, she spoke about the current season and the program's recipe for success.

What do you think distinguished Season 5? How was it different than past seasons?

It was not as clear to all of us I think who was going to go to the end. The season before we kind of had a feeling of which designers are going to make it into the running in the end. We always had five or six designers that we were like, every time, they're going to come up with something good. And this season, it was a little bit all over the place. It was very literal when I said, "One day you're in, and the next day you're out."

It seems like no matter what season, there's always someone that the audience loves to hate. It's interesting how Kenley has emerged as that person this time. Was she as obnoxious in person as she's been coming across in the last few episodes?

You can only work with what people give you. We don't change their words. What they say is what they say. So she was the way you see her. She was laughing at people at times, she would talk back. And it is a very hard thing for these designers to be on the runway and show themselves to everyone, but this is what you sign up for. You have to take the criticism. And I don't think she could handle that very well. But she is a good designer.

It's amazing to see that this season the ratings are as high as they've ever been. What do you think accounts for the durability of "Runway"?

I think that the show gives a lot of hope to people, that if you have a talent, you can actually still make it somewhere. ...

But also why I think the show gets bigger and bigger every year and is so successful is because you actually watch people with talent. People say, "Oh, what do you think about 'Top Chef'?" And I'm always like, I mean,

I love food, but I don't understand. I can't taste what they make. I can't taste if this tastes better than that. I can only see what they do. And so I don't get it. But I think in "Project Runway," you can make more of your opinions, because you can actually see the fashions.

How does having the show in L.A. change the flavor?

What has been really great is that—especially with Nina [Garcia] and Michael [Kors] not being here all the time because they also have a lot of work to do in New York City—is that we've had so many great stars come on the show, which I think a lot of people enjoy watching. And I always love to hear their point of view, because most of time you don't hear that. Our cast here is so excited when they see the guest judges, they just flip out.

So it hasn't been difficult to get big-name guest judges, even with the fate of the show up in the air?

No, no, not at all. We're working as planned. We're already done six episodes. And we have about 2 1/2 weeks to go. We're working away. The designers are working away.

Does anyone ask, "Is this even going to make it on the air?"

Not to me. Everyone is excited to be here, everyone is staying here until 9, 10 at night. And everyone is very positive.

Klum
AP FILE



'Runway' showdown

Final three designers try to sew up title, \$100,000 prize in fashion finale

Did someone mention the final presidential debate? The most-anticipated results on Wednesday TV will be on "Project Runway."

After what seemed like the longest and weepiest "Runway" season yet, the finale airs at 8 p.m. on Bravo. Leanne, Korto and Kenley made the cut and will face the judges—including Tim Gunn—one final time.

The original 16 designers stitched and witched their way through challenges that included dressing drag queens and even each other. In order to have the "Project Runway" show during Fashion Week, which was a month ago, six designers originally presented their collections. But we now know that Joe, Suede and Jerrell had been cut. Who do you think will take home the \$100,000 prize? **THE DENVER POST**

Leanne Marshall, 27

Why she could win: Leanne's designs are original and modern. She says her final collection was inspired by waves, which explains the fullness, the layers, and soft blue-and-white color palette.

Why she might not: Some of her designs are more art pieces than wearable clothing. When she's not creating pastel gowns, her color palette and fabric choices can be a little drab.

What the judges said after seeing her wedding and bridesmaid dresses: "Leanne, I have to say, this is so chic, so beautifully crafted and right away, the minute it turned the corner, I knew it was yours," Michael Kors said. Nina Garcia was no less complimentary, saying, "It's modern, it's dreamy, and it's you."

Korto Momolu, 33

Why she could win: Korto isn't afraid to use a bold color palette and embellish her designs with careful pleating, tucks and even built-in jewelry. She's strong enough in her design sense to create clothes for curvy girls like herself.

Why she might not: Her work can be a little haphazard and sloppy. She seemed to at times ignore the assignment, evidenced in the wedding challenge, producing dresses that were in too similar-colored fabrics.

What the judges are saying: Her wed-

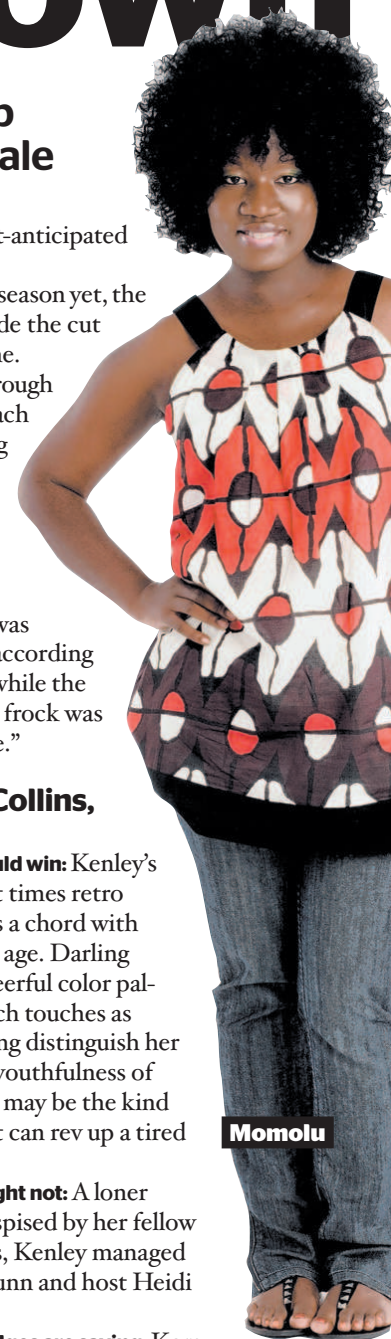
ding dress was "overkill," according to Garcia, while the bridesmaid frock was "underdone."

Kenley Collins, 25

Why she could win: Kenley's girly and at times retro style strikes a chord with women her age. Darling dresses, cheerful color palette and such touches as handpainting distinguish her work. The youthfulness of her designs may be the kind of look that can rev up a tired industry.

Why she might not: A loner roundly despised by her fellow contestants, Kenley managed to insult Gunn and host Heidi Klum.

What the judges are saying: Kors and Garcia said Kenley's wedding dress was an Alexander McQueen knockoff. But, Kors noted, it was "done beautifully, romantic without being syrupy" and her bridesmaid dress was "the cutest damn dress I've ever seen." Klum called the outfits "crazy good."



A peek at Bryant Park

See the girls' finale collections and vote for your favorite at redeyechicago.com/showpatrol.



Collins



Marshall
AP FILE



Momolu
MCT FILE



Collins
AP FILE

five on fashion

RedEye asked the Wearwolves, Season 4 "Runway" Chicago designer Steven Rosengard and our own "Runway" superfan to judge the final collections of the Season 5 finalists. Their picks are checked.



STEVEN ROSENGARD
"Runway" alum



TRACY SWARTZ
tswartz@tribune.com



RALPH FASANO & JEFF WORTH
His Stuff



TENNILLE WHITE
Designer



PHNEWFULA FREDERIKSEN
Retail consultant



LEANNE MARSHALL

✓ **Rosengard:** Who cares if she can't style herself? The fabrics' movements were killer.

✓ **Swartz:** Architecture meets the ocean in a hipster dream. No motion sickness here.

✓ **Fasano & Worth:** Light, ethereal, yet architectural. Feminine without being girly. Conceptual, yet completely wearable.

White: The same shapes over and over again. They're as mind-numbing as her color palette.

Frederiksen: Her designs are definitely fluffy and voluminous, but at times confusing.



KORTO MOMOLU

I thought the '90s taught us mustard was a bad, bad color.

Vibrant hues, but played it safe. Waiting to be wowed. Still waiting.

Interesting, but most pieces are either overworked or overly simple.

✓ A very vibrant and cohesive collection. The silhouettes were fresh and very sellable.

✓ Sex kitten meets safari girl! Her designs are hotter than Liberia in July.



KENLEY COLLINS

I smiled, I laughed, I threw up.

Is this a Joan Collins novel or "Calendar Girl"? Too cool for tulle.

Psycho-retro. The collection doesn't hold together. There's a big difference between innovation and cheesy gimmick.

This has got to be a very bad joke. If I see another sheath dress I will scream.

My inner Punky Brewster is screaming "yes!" but the grown woman in me says, "Leave the Crayola colors alone."



Marshall
NBC FILE PHOTOS

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Grier's fake 'News' series keeps it real

CHOCOLATE NEWS

9:30 p.m. Wednesday, Comedy Central

!!! **The scoop:** Creator and executive producer David Alan Grier hosts Comedy Central's latest fake news show, "the only source for pure uncircumcised realness from an Afrocentric perspective."

What works: Grier isn't as funny playing the all-knowing host, but when he puts on makeup for sketches, he's hilarious. In the premiere's most effective sketch, he plays poet Maya Angelou, who shares the first drafts of her inaugural poems for either Barack Obama ("You have a mocha chokehold on the American dream") or

John McCain ("President-elect John McCain—Ain't this a bitch").

What doesn't: The satire of "Chocolate News" pales in comparison to "The Daily Show" and "The Colbert Report."

Tune in or out? The sketches are hit or miss, but when even a predictable sketch can end with a shocker, you should tune in every week. Case in point: The debut's hokey final sketch about white folks negotiating the right to use the "n-word" is punctuated when the white official calls the black official the word—without hatred, mind you—post-signed agreement. I spit out my chocolate milk.

» For a video sneak peek of chocolate news visit redeyechicago.com/showpatrol

'Chocolate News' offers fresh approach

"In Living Color" veteran David Alan Grier promises to deliver a lot of satire in his new Comedy Central sketch series, "Chocolate News."

The fake news show, premiering at 9:30 p.m. Wednesday, will be in a "60 Minutes"-style magazine format—except with comedy. For instance, when a pair of conjoined twins are born in one sketch—one black and one white—"Chocolate News" doesn't even cover the white one.

"I think I personally wanted a different way to do sketch, a kind of way to do comedy that I didn't really see, especially from an African-American point of view on television," Grier said. "And [offer] just a fresh approach ... instead of creating a show that I know and I've seen. And it's a black version of that show, trying to come up with a new way to do it." **MCT**

TV ratings

Prime-time viewership numbers compiled by Nielsen Media Research for Oct. 6-12. **AP**

No.	Show, Network	★
1.	"CSI" CBS	23.49
2.	"Dancing with the Stars," ABC	18.59
3.	"NCIS," CBS	16.3
4.	"Criminal Minds," CBS	16.19
5.	"CSI: NY," CBS	15.87
6.	"Desperate Housewives," ABC	15.51
7.	"Dancing with the Stars," ABC	15.07
8.	"Grey's Anatomy," ABC	14.8
9.	"The OT," Fox	14.23
10.	"Two and a Half Men," CBS	14.07

★ = Number of viewers in millions



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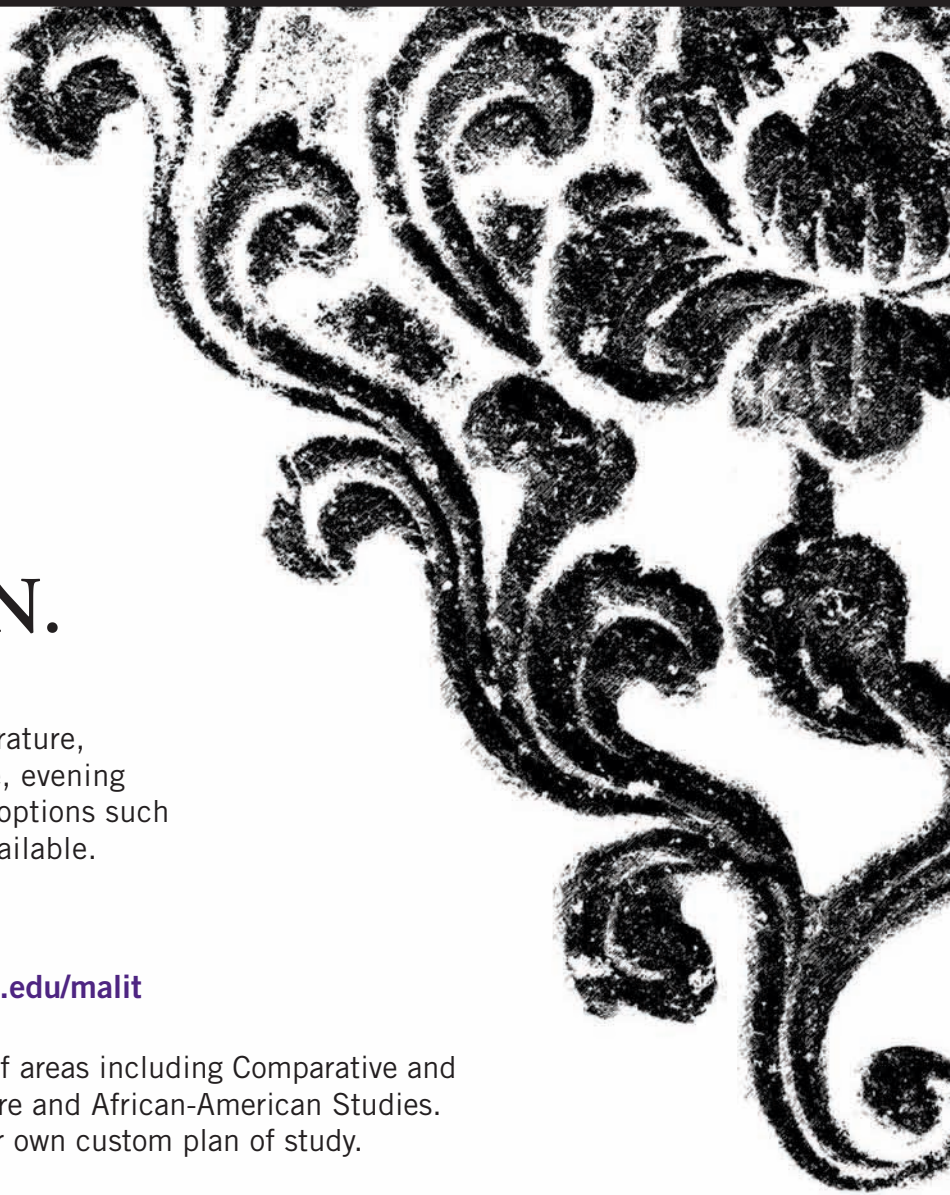


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Karaoke fans can be superstars online

Seattle Post-Intelligencer

If a karaoke singer croons and there's no live audience, lingering aroma of booze or cheesy video accompaniment, is it still karaoke?

A new generation of online karaoke singers thinks so—especially when their audience can number in the hundreds, even thousands, and they can claim fans who live halfway around the world.

It's also a great way to practice until perfect—without fear of being heckled or the shame of a song gone wrong, very wrong.

"The thing about regular karaoke or auditioning for 'American Idol' is you get one shot to do it perfectly. This tells you [that] you can do it over again," said Katie Peters, a sophomore at the University of Washington.

At 19, Peters is too young to be let into many karaoke bars, but she's just the right age to check out the newest karaoke songs available on MySpace.

"I was browsing MySpace through my music site and I saw in the 'More' section: 'Karaoke.' I clicked on it and saw all these songs," Peters said. She goes by Lady Kay and sings songs by the Backstreet Boys, Christina Aguilera and Britney Spears. "You can sing to songs, people respond and check it out. It was really awesome. I'm addicted to it now."

These crooners are would-be "American Idol" contestants, aspiring professional singers and amateur performers who reveal their inner rock stars to the world in pre-recorded bits. They're all ages and their music choices encompass every genre.

The Sims on Stage, MySpace Karaoke and Red Karaoke are just three of the karaoke sites online. These sites had numerous selections, the ability to upload music files and consistent playback and recording quality,

WHERE TO SING ONLINE

» **RedKaraoke.com:** Red Karaoke has 15,000 songs in its library, compared with 2,000 to 3,000 songs at other sites.

» **Sims on Stage at thesimsonstage.com/index.html** (karaoke section): This site allows users to embed their karaoke recordings on blogs and social networks and to record videos of their performances. More than 850,000 recordings have been made on the site.

» **MySpace Karaoke at ksolo.myspace.com:** Singers can do live karaoke at this site.

» **Ronan's Online Karaoke at ronansonlinekaraoke.com:** Just lyrics and songs, no recording and playback capability.

» **The Online Karaoke Machine at theonlinekarokemachine.i12.com:** Cheesy, synth-heavy karaoke sing-alongs with the lyrics highlighted as you sing.

including video performances. Some allowed users to adjust tones and sing highs and lows. Some offered the use of plug-in microphones and the ability to share songs online.

Red Karaoke user Michelle Boline of Seattle rocks out to Guns N' Roses, Van Halen and AC/DC, but she can switch gears and sing Garth Brooks and Tina Turner.

"There are a lot of the people who are really good," Boline said. "It feels like everyone on there is a professional singer."

Red Karaoke, which has 200,000 users around the world, has been used as a recruiting ground for Spain's version of "American Idol." The site started there in 2007 before opening its doors in the U.S. this year.

"I think it's going to be evolutionary, more interactive," Boline said. "Someone like me, that's a lot of what I do it for. It's really social."

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- » Littlest Pet Shop, Wii, DS
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- » Smart Girl's: Party Game, DS
- » Sam & Max: Season One, Wii
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- » Avatar: The Last Airbender-Into the Inferno, PS2, Wii
- » Mx Vs ATV Untamed, PS2

Character manipulation

For a self-effacing, portly little plumber, Mario may be the most ambitious guy in video games. He has the most recognizable face in the industry; his parents at Nintendo have promoted him everywhere, from T-shirts and lunchboxes to cartoons and cell-phone ringtones.

Mario has a lively supporting cast, including his brother, Luigi, his object of desire, Princess Peach, and his nemesis, King Bowser. Nintendo's deep bench also includes cuddly stalwarts such as Donkey Kong, Kirby and the Pokemon lineup. No other video-game company puts its characters to work as much as Nintendo does. Mario's closest competitor is Sega's Sonic the Hedgehog, who may be on the verge of a long-awaited comeback.



Wario Land: Shake It!

Nintendo/Wii, \$49.99



Shake It! is a fairly linear, 2-D running-and-jumping game (a “platformer,” to resort to industry jargon). It's exactly the kind of game that made Mario famous two decades ago, and it feels awfully old-fashioned. The twist is that by shaking the Wii remote, you can cause earthquakes, which flip your enemies upside-down and open up new areas to explore. While Shake It! is a solid platformer, the levels aren't very challenging—you can get through each one in about 10 minutes, and you can polish off the entire game in just a few hours. There are some bonus goals that provide motivation to replay levels, but most gamers will be disappointed.

Kirby Super Star Ultra

Nintendo/DS/\$34.99



Kirby is one of those second-string Nintendo characters that gamers either love or hate. He's a simple pink ball with flipperlike arms and big red feet. His primary power is the ability to inhale his enemies, which allows him to absorb their powers. Ultra is a remake of a 1996 game that came out on Super NES. For the most part, it's a straightforward platformer. After you breeze through the initial levels, subsequent stages throw in variations: You may need to race against an opponent or collect a certain number of treasures before time runs out. There are also a few minigames in which you need to match cards or hit targets, but they aren't worth more than a couple of plays.

Sonic Chronicles: Dark Brotherhood

Sega/DS/\$34.99



Sega has been trying for years to recapture the excitement of the original “Sonic the Hedgehog,” released in 1991. For this DS adventure, the company put its marquee performer in the hands of BioWare. Knuckles the Echidna has been kidnapped, and Sonic and his friends uncover a millennia-old conspiracy when they set out to rescue him. The plot is a cut above most platformer stories. There's a lot of territory to explore in Dark Brotherhood, and a variety of interesting puzzles that require the talents of all of Sonic's friends to solve. And the combat sequences mix turn-based strategy with the need for nimble stylus-tapping. BioWare has delivered a fresh approach to the Sonic saga.

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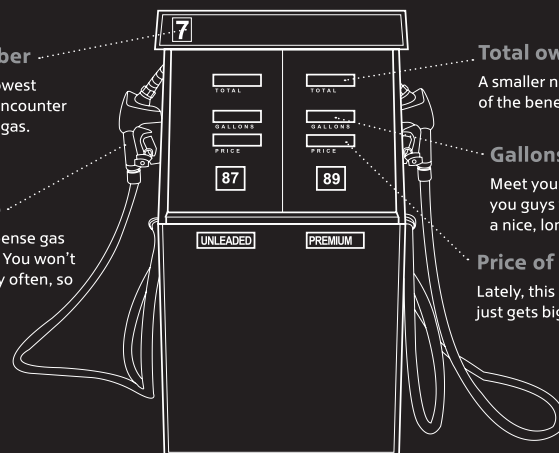
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Former Marcia Brady spills in book

Associated Press

Maureen McCormick never opened up to her "Brady Bunch" siblings about her new tell-all book.

"She's been pretty quiet about it," said Barry Williams, who played Greg Brady, "because I've asked her."

McCormick chronicles her romance with Williams, her on-screen stepbrother, in the new book, "Here's the Story: Surviving Marcia Brady and Finding My True Voice." She also discusses her bouts with addiction and depression, as well as dates with Michael Jackson and Steve Martin.

McCormick's "Brady" co-stars said they weren't privy to the details she planned to reveal.

"We don't know what's in the book," said Eve Plumb, who played middle sister Jan.

"I'm excited to read it," said Susan Olsen, who played the youngest one—Cindy—and who's also working on a "Brady" book.

McCormick's former co-stars—Williams, Plumb, Olsen, Christopher Knight and Mike Lookinland—reunited backstage Monday at the Sunset-Bronson Studios during a break from filming five "Brady Week" episodes for the new "Trivial Pursuit: America Plays" syndicated game show, hosted by Knight.

Over the years, the "Brady Bunch" group has formed a family. They didn't hesitate to talk over one another, or finish one another's sentences.



Williams

GALLERY ONLINE

The Brady Bunch, then and now. Don't miss RedEye's photo gallery at redeyechicago.com/marciamarciamarcia.

They still are seemingly serving in family roles: Williams, ever the elder brother, is the ringleader. Knight, who played middle son Peter, is the smart one. Plumb is in character as the serious daughter. Lookinland, who played Bobby, is quiet. And Olsen is kooky as ever.

The "Brady" siblings were more interested in talking about Knight's quiz show than the details of McCormick's new book, which isn't the first behind-the-"Brady Bunch" memoir. Williams published "Growing Up Brady: I Was a Teenage Greg" in 1992.

The former child actors, whose ages range from 47 to 54, said they see one another often these days. But they said they turned down an offer to appear on NBC's "Celebrity Family Feud."

During their "Trivial Pursuit" appearances, which begin airing Nov. 10, they will recite "Brady"-themed puzzlers alongside Knight. They will then compete against one another in the Nov. 14 episode.

So just what does it take to get the family back together?

"Money," Olsen said without hesitation.

"Money," Lookinland chimed in.

"It's you, that's why I'm here," Plumb said, glancing at Knight.

"You owe me big time."



txtable

A very 'Brady' age

Maureen McCormick was 14 when "The Brady Bunch" debuted on ABC back in the day. What year did the show launch? Text "**year**" and the number of your response to **47383**. You'll get a message telling you if you're right.

1. 1970

2. 1968

3. 1974

4. 1969

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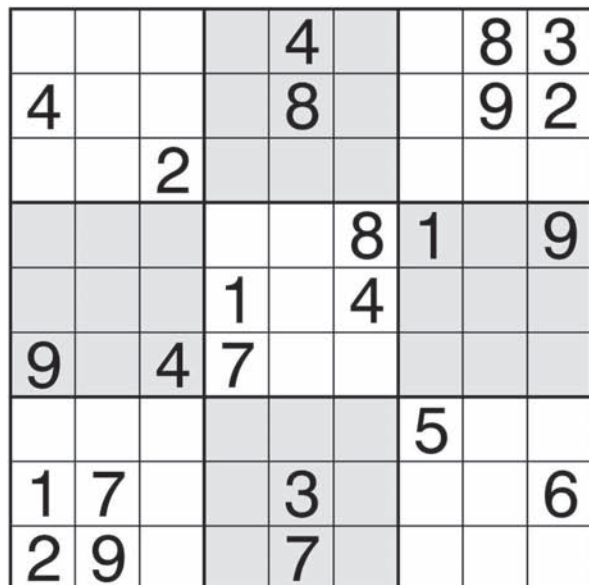
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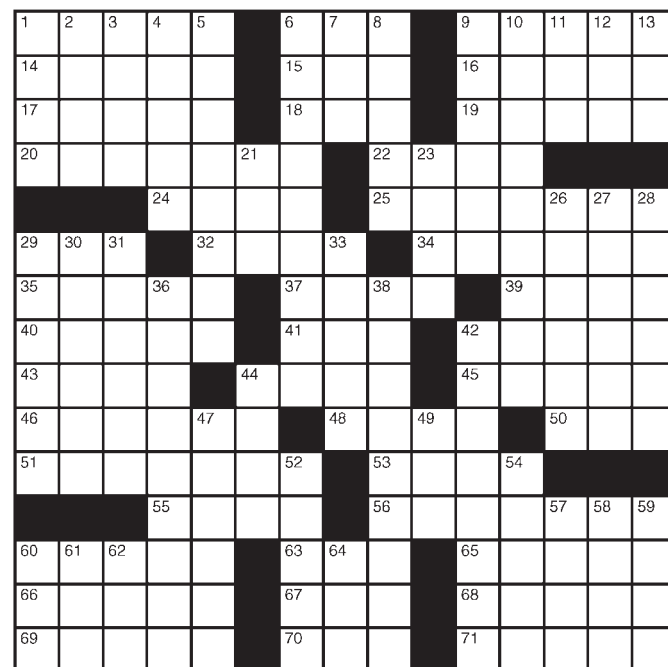
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ACROSS

- 1 Scarlett's last name
- 6 All-purpose MDs
- 9 Oregon capital
- 14 Indian princes
- 15 Old card game
- 16 Worship
- 17 Squeals
- 18 "the land of the free..."
- 19 Pentium makers
- 20 Stories in installments
- 22 Forum attire
- 24 Club fee
- 25 Of one's mate
- 29 Bossy's bellow
- 32 Weaver's need
- 34 Boot cushion
- 35 German playwright
- 37 Flower holder
- 39 Agatha's contemporary
- 40 Wet sprays
- 41 Lilly or Wallach
- 42 Cavalry sword
- 43 Max or Buddy
- 44 Engendered
- 45 Greek letter
- 46 All in one piece
- 48 Crystal gazer
- 50 Asian holiday
- 51 Scamps
- 53 Poet Teasdale
- 55 Cash drawer
- 56 Neptune's spear
- 60 Promotes heavily
- 63 "Maria"
- 65 Macabre
- 66 Jaw, Saskatchewan
- 67 Dance type
- 68 Bacon unit
- 69 Businessmen, informally
- 70 Aliens, briefly
- 71 Flat-head nails

DOWN

- 1 Eyes, in poems
- 2 Patriot Nathan



- 3 Not quite closed
- 4 Fanatical
- 5 Onslaughts
- 6 Trivialize
- 7 Eerie author
- 8 Alphabetizes
- 9 Ho Chi Minh City, formerly
- 10 To a sickening degree
- 11 Destiny
- 12 Before, poetically
- 13 Gibson of "Hamlet"
- 21 Sayer the singer

- 23 Mayberry boy
- 26 Fruit ice
- 27 Claim
- 28 Ogle
- 29 Part of a group
- 30 Italian journalist
- 31 Fallaci
- 33 Men and boys
- 36 Most exacting
- 38 Skirts
- 42 Most lamentable
- 44 Tower ringer

- 47 Pay increases
- 49 Serving of corn
- 52 Election selection
- 54 Ms. Rogers St. Johns
- 57 Olympic skater
- 58 Price of golf
- 59 Golfers' gadgets
- 60 "Pinafore"
- 61 Mirror image?
- 62 Taro paste
- 64 Dyeing tub

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THE BIG QUESTION

When will Tina Fey be back on "Saturday Night Live"?

"I don't know," Fey said.

Over coffee Tuesday during a rare morning off from her NBC sitcom, "30 Rock," Fey told The Associated Press that "SNL" will be on live this Saturday, as well as airing a 8:30 p.m. Thursday edition, but as to whether she will take part in either broadcast, "I haven't heard."

A spokesman for the NBC late-night comedy show echoed her comments.

Fey
NBC

Any Fey you want it

'SNL' alum helps raise bar for show's other leading ladies

MCT

It's good to be Tina Fey.

The bespectacled comic is not only driving "Saturday Night Live" ratings with her dead-on Sarah Palin impersonations but she also just won two Emmys (Outstanding Comedy Series and Outstanding Lead

Actress) for "30 Rock" and clinched a \$5 million-plus book deal.

Safe to say Fey is "SNL's" most financially successful female alum. But there are others who were more than ready for prime time. Let's take a look.



Molly Shannon (1994-2001)

Shannon has had pretty good luck in the industry, starting in '95, when Janeane Garofalo dropped out of "SNL."

Unforgettable as: Neurotic Catholic schoolgirl Mary Katherine Gallagher (above, right).

Post "SNL": You can catch her in NBC's "Kath & Kim," in which she plays a tacky mom to Selma Blair.

Ana Gasteyer (1996-2002)

Known for her restrained impersonations of Martha Stewart, Sally Jessy Raphael and Hillary Clinton.

Unforgettable as:

(Seemingly) heavily Xanaxed-out NPR radio co-host Margaret Jo McCullen.

Post "SNL": Belted out showtunes as Elphaba in Chicago's "Wicked" (right) and in "Reefer Madness: The Movie Musical."

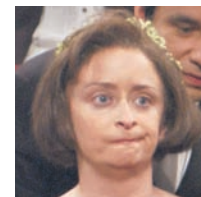


Rachel Dratch (1999-2006)

Dratch is "SNL's" longest-serving female cast member.

Unforgettable as: Debbie Downer (right).

Post "SNL": After bit parts in movies like "Click" and "Aqua Teen Hunger Force," life has slowed. "I know you're supposed to come up with fake stuff you're doing. But honestly, I'm not doing much," Dratch told New York mag recently. "I'd work in a black-box theater company at this point."



Amy Poehler (2001-present)

Due to give birth this fall, the "Baby Mama" star (right) is the go-to gal when over-the-top wackiness is called for.

Unforgettable as: The manic host of "Good Morning Meth"; Sharon Stone; and, most recently, Hillary Clinton.

Post "SNL": Alas, she's leaving the show to do a rumored spinoff of "The Office."



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Workin' mom

Jessica Alba says it's tough to be away from newborn daughter Honor Marie—so she's taking baby to work.

"It's difficult to spend any time away from her," says Alba, who is filming the new flick, "An Invisible Sign of My Own."

"I love my daughter," Alba tells **people.com**, "and she's going to be with me every day on the set."

'Iron Man' switch?

Looks like Terrence Howard is out as the sidekick to Tony Stark in the "Iron Man" sequel. His replacement? The Hollywood Reporter says it's going to be Don Cheadle of the "Ocean's" franchise. There was no comment from Marvel as to the reason for the switch, although THR quoted sources close to the deal who cited financial differences.

Blake's dad in crash

The father of "Gossip Girl" star Blake Lively was hospitalized Monday after his car went down an embankment in L.A., **usmagazine.com** reports. The mag quotes Lively's mother, Elaine, as saying he is "going to make a full recovery, thankfully." The magazine said the "Gossip Girl" star rushed to her father's bedside after the accident.

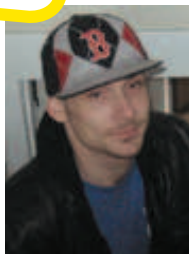
txtable

Celebrity twin

Do you look like a celebrity? Show us! Send your picture along with the name of the celeb who shares your style to **jxwalsh@tribune.com**. For Wednesday, we have Eli Falk. Think he's a ringer for Kevin Federline? Text "**twin**" and the number of your opinion to **47383**. You'll get the poll results instantly.

1. Dead on

2. Way off



Falk



Federline

NOTED, QUOTED, DEMOTED



NOTED

Rumors swirling around Jennifer Aniston, John Mayer—again. Stay tuned.

QUOTED

"It's coming to a point where I love this show so much, but I'm ready to kind of walk away."

—Lauren Conrad, talking to "Extra" about "The Hills"

DEMOTED

Kim Kardashian's Facebook page. Her rep tells **usmagazine.com** she totally did not update it at 4:35 a.m. to say she's engaged.



Kardashian
AP

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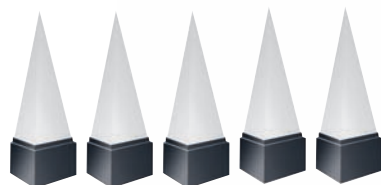
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High 5!

Alicia Keys is all about the nominations. The singer nabbed a leading five nominations for the 2008 American Music Awards, including artist of the year and favorite female artist in both the pop/rock and soul/R&B categories, The Associated Press reports. Rihanna, Ne-Yo, Taylor Swift and the Pussycat Dolls are among those scheduled to perform at the event next month. Other notable nods, which host Jimmy Kimmel announced Tuesday:



Alicia Keys leads with 5 nominations »



« Coldplay



« The Eagles



« Chris Brown



« Lil Wayne

Absolutely Witherspoon



Reese Witherspoon (left) says she's lucky to be with Jake Gyllenhaal.

"He's very supportive," she tells *Vogue*, according to **people.com** excerpts. "Suffice it to say, I'm very happy in life, and I'm very lucky to have a lot of really supportive people around me ..."

Witherspoon, who co-stars in the upcoming comedy "Four Christmases" with Vince Vaughn, also says Vaughn tickled her funny bone. "The funniest person I've ever worked with in my entire life," she says.



GETTY IMAGES FILE



Lively



Badgley

Political 'Gossip'

Blake Lively and Penn Badgley are hopping on the celebrity endorsement bandwagon.

In a PSA spoof modeled after anti-drug campaigns, the "Gossip Girl" stars reach out to their moms and dads and ask them not to vote for John McCain.

"Mom, Dad, I found this in your room," says Penn Badgley, holding up a "Drill, Baby, Drill" hat. Lively ends the PSA with this: "And if you're ever out somewhere and you're considering voting McCain, just call me, and I'll come pick you up, no questions asked."

Hey, Mr. DJ

Wednesday promises to be a big night for DJ AM.

In his first concert set since suffering severe burns in a deadly plane crash last month in South Carolina, DJ AM is set to appear on stage with Jay-Z, his publicist announced. Jay's tour makes a stop at the Hollywood Palladium in L.A.

"He's the greatest rapper in the world," AM told **people.com** of Jay-Z. "This is the biggest thing that's happened in my career."

THE DIGIT

19

The age of Hugh Hefner's new twin girlfriends, Karissa and Kristina Shannon.



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